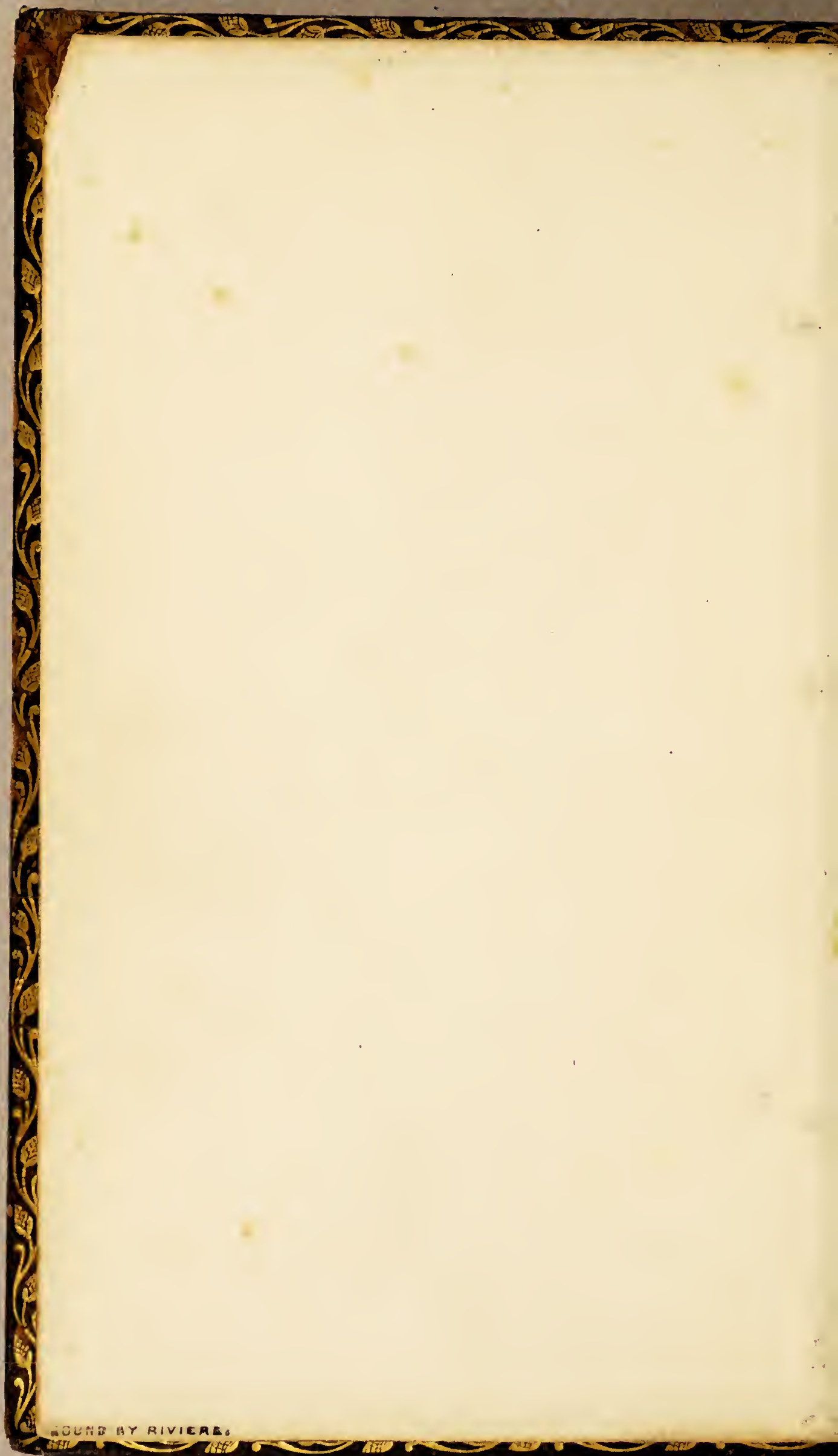




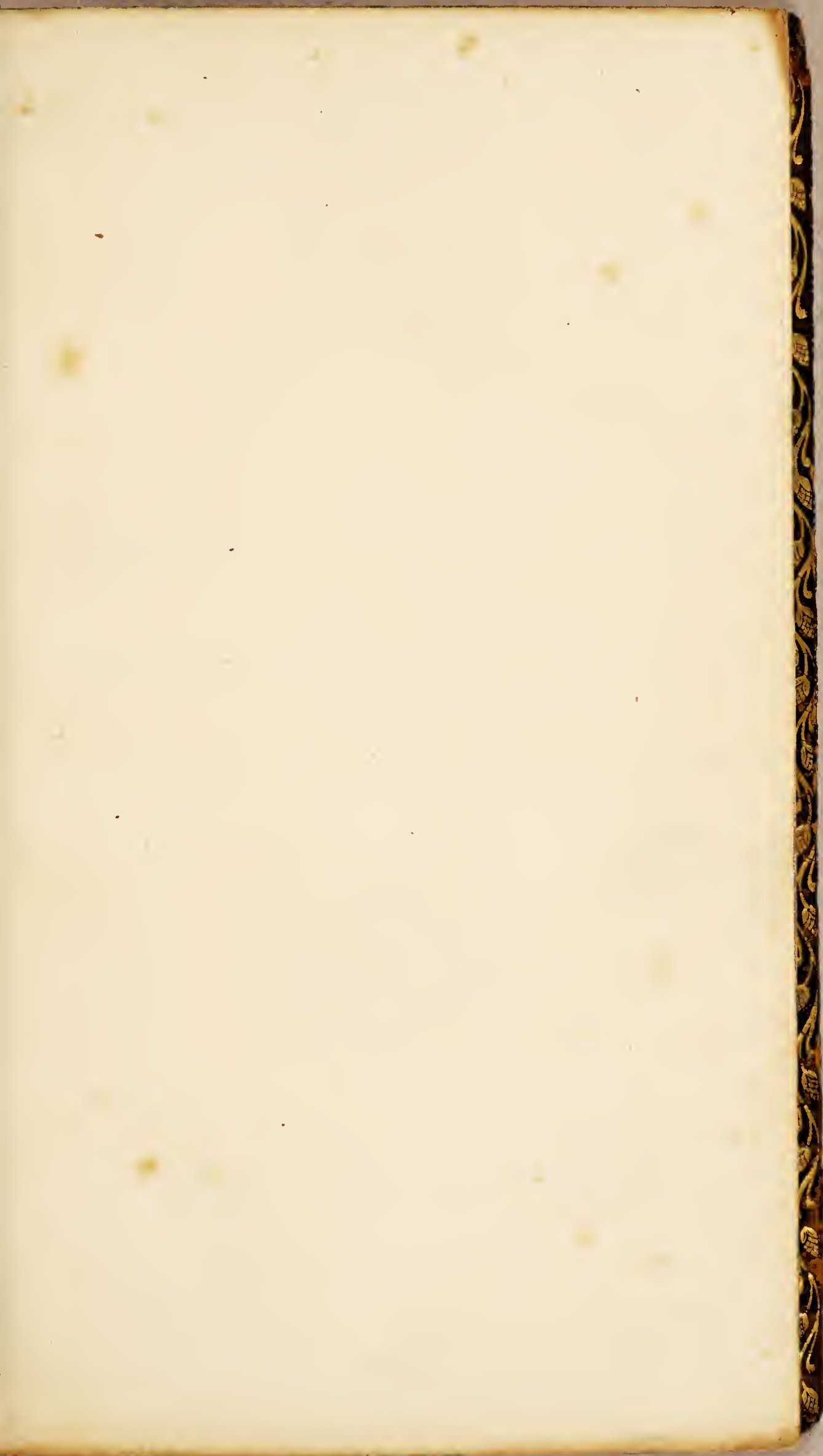


John Carter Brown.





BOUND BY RIVIERE



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T H E
L I F E

JOHN CARTER BROWN
O F

Admiral V E R N O N.

By an impartial Hand.



L O N D O N :

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THE
L I F E
O F
Admiral VERNON.

B O O K I.

His birth, family, and education; with a remarkable conversation between his father and him concerning the sea service; he is shipwrecked, and narrowly escapes.

EDWARD VERNON Esq; was born at Westminster, the 12th day of November 1684. His father, Mr. secretary Vernon, was descended of a second branch of the family of Vernon in Staffordshire.

The name of Vernon is originally French, and may with great propriety be said to have come over with William the

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Conqueror, who distributed among his soldiers the lands and estates not only of Harold's friends and associates, but even of such of the English families, the nobility not excepted, as joined his own standard, and fought under him at the general engagement near Battlebridge in Suffex. Among the number of those who received his bounty in this way, was the progenitor of Mr. Vernon, who even breathed more of a spirit of liberty than could be expected in those of days superstition and ignorance.

Though the family of Vernon was not so conspicuous as some others, yet they frequently had sufficient interest to procure seats in the house of Commons, and to attain places and preferments in the army, church and state. • They opposed tyranny in every reign, and were in the number of the heroes who joined the standard of the earl of Richmond, afterward Henry VII. who on the field of Bosworth, totally routed the army of Richard III. who, after performing miracles of bravery,

ry, died like Catiline, with his sword in his hand.

At the breaking out of the civil wars, in the reign of Charles I. several members of the family of Vernon sat in the house of Commons; and these breathing a spirit of freedom, joined against the faction, who, by their evil counsels and false suggestions, wrought up the mind of the king to a belief of his being arbitrary, and of having an absolute, indefeasible jurisdiction over the persons and lives of his subjects: and though there were some faithful patriots to represent by addresses and remonstrances, in the most humble manner, the mischievous effects of such pernicious insinuations, yet the unfortunate king was deaf to every advice, being intoxicated with titles, and daily teased by his French queen, whose brother Lewis XIII. had subverted and overturned the parliament of France.

But though the family of Vernon was for preserving the liberty of the subjects, yet they were far from lessening the pre-

rogative, or detracting from the dignity of the crown: they were for making up matters, and declared themselves openly against proceeding to the extremities which afterwards ensued: though they opposed tyranny, yet they acted with moderation; and though friends to liberty, yet they were never for stripping the crown of the minutest gem that might serve to make it shine with the brighter lustre.

The father of Mr. Vernon, being secretary of state to King William and Queen Mary, was enabled by an additional income to his paternal estate, which was but small, to give an ample and polite education to his sons, of whom Edward was the second.

At the age of seven years he was sent to Westminster school, then under the direction of the famous Dr. Busby, a gentleman who was subject to an imperiousness of temper, which, like other things, growing upon him, frequently wrought him up to exercise with severity
and

and rancour the rod of discipline, which ought only to be used with the utmost judgment and discretion. Few escaped the lash from Dr. Busby, and among these few was Mr. Vernon, who both had a good spirit for letters, and, on every occasion, discovered a complaisance and sagacity, which, as it argued him prudent and wise, so it procured him the affection and esteem of the several masters under whose inspection he more immediately was. But though he studied the Latin and Greek tongues assiduously, and by a seven years application had made a considerable progress in both, as also in the Hebrew, which last is taught at Westminster school, yet from the time he could walk, he betrayed an inclination towards the marine service. He frequently withdrew from his studies, to converse with the watermen concerning the different compositions of a boat, a barge, a wherrey, and other small craft. His allowance in pocket-money was frequently spent among seamen; and as the battle of la Hogue,

wherein the French lost twenty one ships of the line, had happened a few years before, and that many of the sailors, who had served in the fleet, and fought in that ever memorable action, so fatal to France and to the schemes of the unfortunate King James, had come to reside near the place where Mr. Vernon was; so he talked with them upon the several scenes they had gone through. These he would often rehearse amoug his school-fellows, who at that very time began to call him by the name and title of Admiral Vernon; an appellation which in his riper years he so honourably bore.

As the secretary his father observed the natural turn of his son's genius, so he was too wise to thwart it immoderately, notwithstanding his great inclination and that of his lady to train Mr. Edward up to the law. He indeed used some endeavours, and even proceeded to use the ferula, in order to make him discontinue his watry pursuits, and perhaps would have persisted, had not the mother frequently

quently interposed. One day in particular, the secretary was insisting with him, partly by promises, partly by threatenings, to give over the thoughts of the sea service, as being a state of continual danger, and subjecting a person to live constantly among the most grovelling set of mortals, the very dregs and refuse of the people. “Common seamen and common soldiers,” replied Mr. Edward, “may deserve to be called such, but among the commanders and admirals few of these are to be found.” The secretary then called for a copy of Virgil, in which he desired his son to interpret that portion of the first book of the *Æneid*, which contains the description of the storm which scattered the fleet of *Æneas*, and which was so violent that the wind split the waters in such a manner, as the ground which they covered might be seen dry, and drove him and his companions on the shore of Carthage. “This storm,” said Mr. Vernon, “proceeded from the imagination of the poet, more than

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“ from

“ from any real thunder, lightning, or
“ agitation in the air ; for it is not very
“ likely that Æolus should have the winds
“ shut up in a mountain, and be able to
“ force the same out by the stroke of a
“ spear.”

The secretary then ordered him to translate that colloquy of Erasmus called the Shipwreck, in which the vessel is represented as rising so high on the top of a billow, that at one time a person might lay his hand upon the moon, and at another time sinking, in a manner, into the centre of the earth. “ Are you not,” said the father, “ persuaded now ? ” “ These descriptions,” answered Mr. Vernon, “ never move me ; a Dutchman’s
“ imagination may be as fertile, and may
“ be as much at liberty, as that of an
“ Italian ; both of them are fictitious
“ alike : but if a person is to be affright-
“ ened by dangers, there never had been
“ an exploit upon earth.” To which the secretary answered, with great mildness, and with that gravity and composure,
which

which so much become a parent when speaking to a child upon a delicate subject, concerning what sphere he is to act in hereafter, “Your resolution seems to
 “be fixed, and to be as unalterable as
 “those of Cato himself.” “Yes,” replied the son, with a modesty suitable to the place wherein he stood, “I have
 “adopted the resolution of Cato, and
 “though I do not chuse to imitate him
 “in every thing, yet in some things I
 “do:” and so repeated the following lines from the second book of Lucan’s *Pharsalia*, concerning that strict justiciary heathen.

These maxims Cato constantly obey’d,
 Each end he view’d, and reason’s laws
 him sway’d;
 He followed nature, nature’s sway him
 rul’d;
 To save the state his passions he controul’d*.

* *Naturamque sequi patriæque impendere vitam.*

The father, though pleased to find such sagacity in his son, and such a surprising progress in his studies, was yet unwilling to give up the argument; for he judged that these uncommon abilities would assist him to make a bright and splendid appearance at the bar. He urged, few seamen ever attained that high reputation, which generals and soldiers frequently acquired. “Methinks,” said Mr. Vernon, “that the immortal lyrick poet
 “has bestowed a higher encomium upon
 “seamen in general, than ever was be-
 “stowed upon those moving in any other
 “sphere.”

His heart was oak, his lungs were brass,
 Who first, in brittle ships, did try
 To brave the seas and stormy winds,
 And ev’n the terrours of the sky*.

“But,” continued the father, “the vic-
 “tories gained by sea were never honour-

* *Illi robur & æs triplex
 Circa pectus erat, qui fragilem truci
 Commisit pelago ratem.*

“ ed among the Romans, as those obtain-
 “ ed at land : triumphs were devoted to
 “ the conquerors.”—Here Mr. Edward
 interrupted, and said, “ Augustus Cæsar
 “ made a more glorious figure when en-
 “ tering Rome after the defeat of Mark
 “ Anthony and Cleopatra at Actium,
 “ than ever he or his predecessor Julius
 “ Cæsar did before. And not only so,
 “ but the apartment in the shield of Æ-
 “ neas, whereon that signal victory is
 “ painted in so masterly a manner, is, I
 “ am told, the most glorious episode in
 “ the whole description, which, if you
 “ please,” continued he, “ I shall repeat
 “ before you.” The father charmed with
 the proposal, desired he might go on, and
 accordingly Mr. Vernon, in obedience to
 his father’s commands, rehearsed the fol-
 lowing lines from the eighth book of the
 Æneid.

Mars in the middle of the shining shield
 Is grav’d, and strides along the liquid field.

The Diræ fouse from heav'n with swift
descent,

And Discord dy'd in blood, with gar-
ments rent,

Divides the preace : her steps Bellona
treads,

And shakes her iron rod above their
heads.

This seen ; Apollo from his Actian height
Pours down his arrows ; at whose wing-
ed flight,

The trembling Indians and Egyptians
yield ;

And soft Sabæans quit the wat'ry field ;

The fatal mistress * hoists her silken sails,

And, shrinking from the fate, invokes
the gales :

Aghast she looks, and heaves her breast
for breath,

Panting and pale, for fear of future death.

The god † had figur'd her as drawn a-
long

In winds and waves, and scudding thro'
the throng.

* *Cleopatra.*

† *Vulcan.*

Just opposite, sad Nilus opens wide
 His arms and ample bosom to the tide,
 And spreads his mantle o'er the winding
 coast,
 In which he wraps his queen, and hides
 the flying host.
 The victor* to the gods his thanks ex-
 press'd,
 And Rome triumphant with his presence
 blest'd.
 Three hundred temples in the town he
 plac'd,
 With spoils and altars ev'ry temple grac'd.
 Three shining nights, and three suc-
 ceeding days,
 The fields resound with shouts, the
 streets with praise,
 The domes with songs, the theatres
 with plays ;
 All altars flame ; before each altar lies,
 Drench'd in his gore, the destin'd sacrifice.
 Great Cæsar sits sublime upon his throne,
 Before Apollo's porch of Parian stone ;

* *Augustus Cæsar.*

Accepts the presents vow'd for victory,
And hangs the monumental crown on
 high.

Vast crowds of vanquish'd nations march
 along,

Various in arms, in habit and in tongue.

Many other examples might have been quoted, and even some from the history of England, concerning the more fatal strokes given to a state by obtaining a victory by sea, than conquering by land; but it would not be supposed, that in so tender an age, every thing could occur.

By the time that this dialogue ended, supper was ready to be set upon the table; and company coming in, another discourse was introduced, and so the matter was dropped at that period.

However, on retiring to his chamber, the secretary informed his lady of what had passed between him and her son, and she, willing to favour the aspiring genius of the youth, gave it as her sincere opinion,

nion, that no boy's inclination should be violated in the choice of an employment, but that this liberty was to supply the want of a personal estate; and that on this and many other accounts, the youth should be left to pursue the bent of his own genius, and to follow that employment for which nature seemed to have designed him.

From that time forward he was free from all manner of solicitations, and the father became furnished with a new argument, to prevail upon his son to study the Latin tongue more assiduously than hitherto: for, says he, “As you intend
“to be a seaman, know that after leaving
“England, you will find but few to converse with in the English language.
“Acquaint yourself well with the Latin
“tongue; for, by means of it, you may
“soon attain the knowledge of any other.”

His advice was followed; and from that day forward he applied closely to the perusal of the colloquies of Corderius
and

and Erasmus, in which are contained the different forms of conversation upon the hour, upon different articles of life.

By application and practice, he was capable, at the age of sixteen, of holding a dialogue in Latin, for the space of an hour, upon any ordinary subject.

But though the prejudices of the secretary against a sea employment were conquered, yet the seeds of aversion to his son's following that business were not entirely rooted up. He did not indeed insist against his proceeding, but then he gave no directions towards preparing for it, or qualifying him for prosecuting his intentions. The young man, of his own proper motion, desired he might be initiated in mathematical learning, and particularly be taught the theory of navigation and geography.

For this purpose he was sent to the university of Oxford, where he attended the lectures of Dr. John Keil, Savilian professor of astronomy. Under him, he attained a general knowledge of geome-

try, but little of navigation, or of the practical parts, which people seldom can acquire at any publick school.

Upon his return from the university, he studied the theory of navigation under a private tutor; and afterwards applied to fortification and gunnery, and taking the plans of towns. In all which branches he made a very considerable progress.

The age in which he lived was the latter part of that period of time, which the French historian Voltaire distinguishes by the name of, “The age of Lewis XIV.” An age in which military discipline was observed with equal strictness as in the days of Brutus, Camillus, and even Cæsar himself.

France became a seminary of soldiers; and the spirit for war diffusing itself, by means of French gold, through the different nations, Europe was for many years one continued scene of blood, rapine, and slaughter.

Lewis

Lewis XIV. had his emissaries in every court of Europe, and the most part of the courts of the empire were actually in his pay. Germany was in a blaze through his means; yet commerce, trade, and manufactures were encouraged by him: the sciences were generously patronised, which had so good an effect, that the ingenious vied with each other in finding out new discoveries, and the grand monarch always countenanced these with his royal approbation.

But of all the new discoveries, nothing pleased him and the royal family so much as these which tended to improve the art of war. An instance of which we shall give.

In the year 1677, when the Dauphin visited the royal observatory at Paris, M. Romer the professor of astronomy, among other things, shewed him a machine, out of which a syringe discharged water, describing the curve called a parabola, more or less excentric, according to the different degrees of elevation: thus exhibiting

biting by ocular demonstration what Mr. Blondel had demonstrated by means of geometry; and confirming by practice the theory which M. de Perrault had advanced concerning the ascent and descent of heavy bodies. The Dauphin, the same whose mind was formed by the precepts of the immortal Telemachus, wrote by the eminent and worthy Fenelon, bestowed a present upon M. de Romer, which gave him as grand an opinion of the generosity of the prince, as his highness had of the other's ingenuity.

The news spread throughout Europe; the experiment, so easy to be performed, was received every where with the utmost applause; and Sir Isaac Newton, whose discoveries were beyond the reach of other men, shewed by his theory, the cause why a projectile described the figure of a parabola.

Happy was it for Mr. Vernon, to live in an age wherein the world was illuminated with such useful knowledge; but still happier, to be acquainted with the
man

man whose divine genius, by the application of geometry to his philosophical enquiries, had discovered the true system of the world, laid down a theory to account for all the irregularities of the moon, the ebbing and flowing of the sea, the paths of the comets, and whatever nature had hitherto concealed.

He was personally acquainted with Sir Isaac, who treated him with the tenderness and affection of a father, and who frequently shewed him the stars and constellations. He was the first who shewed him the method of taking the latitude by an observation of the pole star, telling him, that he wished an instrument could be found for discovering the longitude, that is, the easting and westing of one place from another, but this he despaired of.

England at that time was happy in her generals as well as in men of speculation and genius. The duke of Marlborough, whose counsels were as hurtful to France as his arms, was then at the head of her
armies,

armies, and such was his authority as to command the submission of the troops of Holland: the Dutch yielded to him.

He had under him some of the ablest generals that ever Europe produced; among these were the duke of Argyll, the earls of Orkney and Stair, the viscount Cobham; the generals Ross, Hay, and Douglass; generals Wood and Stanhope; men who did honour to their country, and while they were dreaded, yet procured the love and esteem even of their very enemies. They never undertook the execution of a scheme which they did not accomplish, nor ever returned from an expedition without effecting their business.

Nor was Britain less fortunate in her admirals and sea officers, than in her generals and commanders on land. The navy at that time was under the best regulation; there was no animosity among them, no division interrupted the execution of the best concerted projects.

The

The office of lord high admiral was then vested in the person of a prince, whose father's throne had frequently been shaken by the intrigues and cabals of the court of Versailles. The heart of Prince George of Denmark was entirely bent upon promoting the glory of his royal consort, inseparably connected with the interest and happiness of her people. He pitched upon men of merit and experience to go forth with the fleets, and to execute his schemes.

The name of a Rook, a Wager, a Ruffel, and a Byng founded fear into the ears of Frenchmen, and imprinted a panic into the hearts of the other nations.

The name of Sir Cloudesley Shovel was mentioned with terror both in France and Spain, and through the different ports of the Mediterranean.

So many great persons were of themselves sufficient to ennoble any nation, and to promote the glory of any monarch ; which yet might not have shone with so
bright

bright a lustre, if a scene of action had not opened by the intrigues and policy of France in every quarter, but particularly in England itself.

The court of France by evil counsels had ruined the affairs of Charles I. In compensation for the catholick league, which they gave out to have been craftily fomented by Queen Elizabeth, and which at once ravaged the provinces of the kingdom; she framed a covenant*, which she artfully dispersed by her emissaries, and in her turn distracted the kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland. She had, by her insinuations and policy, ruined the affairs of Charles II. whom she prevailed on to cede Dunkirk, at the moderate price of 500,000 l. She had procured the favour of the duke of York, by encouraging him to act the merchant, to the great detriment and loss of the trading part of the city of London.

* The solemn league and covenant, contrived by cardinal Richlieu, and sworn to by the kingdoms of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

She

She had by her emissaries endeavoured to overturn the protestant church of England, and had spirited up the short-sighted King James to make a general massacre of the Protestants, of which she herself had set so recent and so glaring an example.

That unfortunate monarch listened too much to the voice of evil counsellors, and to the daily sollicitation of a pettish, revengeful Italian lady, who was of the same family with Katherine de Medicis, the contriver, I had almost said the executioner, of the massacre of Paris, on the 1st of August 1572.

By the advice of his consort, and of his priests and confessors, he was inexorable to the tears and cries of the duke of Monmouth, who abjectly begged his life upon his knees. He had advanced judge Jeffries to the post of lord high chancellor of England, as a recompence for a chain of unparalelled severities. He had disgusted the city of London, by causing one of the most considerable aldermen of
the

the metropolis, to be hanged, drawn, and quartered in Cheapside, on account of a sham conspiracy. He had raised the murmur and resentment of many corporations, by violating their privileges, calling in their charters, and declaring his will to be absolute, and himself to be above the law. He had drawn against his conduct an universal clamour, by confining seven bishops to the Tower, and breaking through the privileges of the two universities : he had irritated the army, by filling up the commissions with popish officers ; and, to crown all, he is said to have set up a fictitious child, as his son.

These were some of the many things which rendered the people of Great Britain ready for a revolt, and eager to grasp at the first opportunity of entering heartily into a war with France, to whom, as the natural enemy of England, the spring of all the above grievances was ascribed.

The people of Britain, almost to a man, rose up against King James, and

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had recourse to the first protestant heir for relief. The prince of Orange, who was great in his victories, resigned in his misfortunes, and admirable in his schemes, had a general invitation given him by the army, the church, and the state: he came to the deliverance of Britain from tyranny and oppression, and soon was the enterprise crowned with a success that is unparalleled.

No sooner was he upon the throne, than to gratify the universal call of an incensed people, he declared war against France; and though with little success at first, as the people of Britain were strangers to arms, having been engaged in no war for many years, yet there were able and experienced seamen still to be found. The fleets of England at this period triumphed over those of France, and by the advantages gained by sea, sufficiently made up any losses and disappointments that were felt at land.

The

The fleets of France had suffered greatly, they were generally conquered; and the British, by the opposition made to them, had occasion of learning, by experience, to stand the briskest assaults; and to press forward through fire and smoke, as we shall see hereafter.

Under one of these great commanders, who had distinguished himself in King William's wars, did Mr. Vernon first enter upon the sea service. The first expedition in which he was concerned, is famous in the annals of England. He was with Admiral Hopson in the Torbay, at the destroying of the French fleet of thirty sail of the line, and twenty two Spanish galleons, in the harbour of Vigo, on the 12th of October 1702.

This expedition, so glorious in itself, and so fatal to the enemy, was conducted by Sir George Rook, in the Somerset, and executed by Vice-admiral Hopson. By favour of a thick mist, after having sure information of the position of the

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enemies

enemies ships from M. Beavoir, a gentleman of Jersey, and chaplain on board the Pembroke, they came close to the mouth of the harbour in the morning. The preceding night was spent in debarking the troops, and making the necessary dispositions for conquering the difficulties, which the French had thrown in their way.

M. Chateau Renaud, the French admiral, had drawn up the fleet beyond a very narrow streight, about a mile over, defended by a boom on the one side, and platforms on both sides, whereon he had planted his best and largest guns. He had likewise laid athwart it a very strong boom, made up of masts, yards, cables, top-chains, and casks, fastened together with ropes, several yards in circumference, underrun with hawfers and cables, and kept steady by anchors cast on both sides of it: the top-chain at each end was moored to a ship of seventy guns. Within the boom, five men of war, of sixty or seventy

venty guns each, were so moored, with their broadsides fronting the entrance of the streights, that they might fire at any ships that came near the boom and platforms.

However, these precautions were not sufficient to terrify minds resolute in themselves, inured to danger, and zealous for promoting the glory of their country. Every one vied who should be the first to venture his life in the daring adventure.

To the intrepid vice-admiral Hopson did the honour fall of first forcing into the harbour. The whole fleet bore up briskly to the boom; but all of a sudden, when the van was got within shot of the batteries, it became so calm, that they were obliged to come to an anchor. In a little time, a fresh gale springing up, Hopson in the Torbay, being next to the boom, immediately cut his cables, clapt on all his sails, bore upon the boom amidst all the fire of the enemy, broke through it at once, cast anchor between the Bour-

bon and Esperance, two men of war which the French admiral had placed near to support it; the Torbay recived several broadsides from them.

His example was followed; the Dutch vice-admiral entered by the very passage which Mr. Hopson had made, and soon took the Bourbon.

All this time the Torbay was in imminent danger, for she was clapt on board by a fireship, which fired her rigging, and must have destroyed her, had it not been for the following accident.

The French fireship had been a merchantman laden with snuff, and hastily fitted up for a fireship. She blew up in an instant, but the snuff suffocated the flame, and so prevented the dreadful havoc that was lookt for from this engine of destruction.

However, the Torbay suffered greatly; her foretopmast was shot by the board; an hundred and fifteen of her men were killed and drowned, nine were wounded.

All

All her sails were scorched and burnt; her foreyard was burnt to a coal, and her larboard shrouds, fore and aft, were burnt to the dead eyes, to such a degree, that though she was preserved, the admiral was obliged to leave her, and hoist his flag on board the Monmouth.

But while admiral Hopson was engaged with the enemy's ships, captain Bockenham, in the Association of ninety guns, laid his broadside against a battery of seventy guns, on the left side of the harbour; and captain Wynnell in the Barfleur, of the same force, battered the fort on right.

Thus for some time there was a considerable firing of great and small shot on both sides, till the French admiral, seeing the platform and fort in the hands of the victorious English, his fireship spent in vain, the Bourbon taken, the boom cut, and the confederate fleet pouring in upon him, he set fire to his own ship, and ordered the captains of the other ships in

his division to follow his example; which was begun in such hurry and confusion, that nine of the galleons were taken, four of which by the English, and five by the Dutch, the rest being sunk, burnt, or otherwise destroyed: the men of war shared the same fate with the galleons.

The money in gold and silver, taken on this occasion, amounted to six millions of pieces of eight, the Spaniards having carried about fourteen millions out of the galleons a few days before.

This great advantage on the side of the English and Dutch was purchased at the expence of a small number of lives; few ships suffered, except the Torbay, as mentioned before. The Kent, whose boatswain was wounded, had her foremast shot, and two men killed. The Barfleur's foremast was shot; she had two men killed, and as many wounded.

The land forces, who had annoyed the enemy during the time that the fleet was entering, and seconded the others operations,

tions, suffered but little, considering the dangerous enterprize in which they were engaged. They only lost two lieutenants and forty soldiers, who were killed on the spot: colonel Perrie was wounded in the thigh, by a cannon ball from one of our own men of war; colonel Seymour, colonel Newton, and Mr. Talmash, with thirty private soldiers, were wounded also.

On the side of the French, the loss was pretty equal to that of the allies; but then, about four hundred officers and men were taken prisoners; among whom M. de Algeire, commodore of the squadron, the M. de Galiffoniere, M. du Sorrel, and several other officers of note. The French admiral and Spanish general, with some others, made their escape; but Don Josepho Cheion, the Spanish admiral, was made prisoner.

The consequence of the victory was a vast booty both of plate and other things; a great quantity of which, particularly

the French property, being found at Rodondella, an harbour which lies above Vigo, the duke of Ormond, commander of the land forces, ordered the same to be immediately divided among the officers of that part of the fleet which seconded the efforts of his grace.

The expedition to Vigo ending so much to the glory and advantage of the confederates, the united fleets of England and Holland, after embarking the land forces, set sail on the 19th of October, and entered the Channel on the 6th of November, where they separated, each steering to their respective harbours. The English came up to Chatham, where they were welcomed with repeated acclamations and huzzas. The queen herself bestowed upon the officers and soldiers marks of her royal approbation: some had medals and chains of gold given them, and the others had presents according to their respective stations. Mr. Vernon's behaviour was
par-

particularly remarked by admiral Hopson himself, and by him he was recommended to the admiralty.

The city of London, whose wealth and grandeur entirely depended on trade and commerce, invited the admirals and officers to dine at Guildhall, where a most magnificent and splendid entertainment was prepared for them, and where the freedom of the city was presented to them in golden boxes. Mr. Vernon was at the entertainment, and shared in the honour conferred by the metropolis.

In the year 1702. a war was begun, which, in the space of seven years, reduced France almost to despair and misery. Her fleets were, before the end thereof, obliged to seek for shelter within her own harbours.

'Tis true, they shewed their head in America, whither Sir George Rook detached captain Walker in the Burford, with five third rates and ten transports, having four regiments on board, which

entirely changed the face of affairs in that part of the world; for they effectually blocked up the harbours in Hispaniola, sunk several privateers, took the town of la Bayliffe, and Basseterre in Guardalupe, burnt and destroyed the enemies houses, works, sugar canes, and provisions.

In this expedition, Mr. Vernon was no more than a second lieutenant on board the Resolution. However, in this station he had a fair opportunity of acquainting himself with the Leeward islands; which he afterwards knew so well, that he drew plans of the harbours, and founded the bays with such exactness, that scarce a bank of sand escaped his observation.

After destroying the shipping of the enemy, the fleet returned into England, where rejoicings were already made, on account of the advantages gained by Sir George Rook in the Channel service.

So many losses were of themselves sufficient to have ruined any nation, yet

Lewis

Lewis le Grand, thirsting after universal monarchy, had still a number of courtiers about him, whose heads were ever employed in contriving schemes for extricating him out of all his difficulties. Nor was he dismayed, notwithstanding the king of Portugal had joined in the grand alliance against him.

In the year 1703, the Dutch were found to correspond with the common enemy, who fitted out a squadron of men of war from Dunkirk, with whom the Salisbury and Adventure falling in, these were taken by them.

Upon this, rear admiral Byng, with five ships of the line, was ordered to lie in wait, and intercept them; and rear admiral Beaumont was stationed off that port for the same purpose, but in vain; for the French ships got in with their prizes, before these could get up with them.

Short liv'd was the joy of the French court on account of this advantage; for
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rear admiral Dilkes, on the 22d of July 1703, took fifteen sail of merchantmen, burnt six, and sunk three, to the westward of Granville ; and on the 27th, seventeen more merchant ships were destroyed, with two men of war, and one was taken.

Sir Cloudefley Shovel had likewise good success this year. He greatly interrupted the enemy's commerce, and took several rich prizes, in their return from the West Indies : and having in four months time visited the port of Lisbon, he entered the Mediterranean, and arrived at Algier, spreading terror wherever he came.

The only disaster which the English met with this year, was in the storm which rose on the 26th of November, and was so violent, that the Vanguard, Northumberland, the Stirling-castle, and the Restoration, with the Mary, a fourth rate, were destroyed ; as were the Mortar bomb, the Resolution, the Litchfield, the Newcastle, the Vesuvius fireship, and Arundel.

del. All the men of the last, being one hundred and fifteen, were saved, as were some of the other ships company; but of the whole, about one thousand five hundred and nineteen seamen were drowned.

The year 1704 wore a promising aspect. The king of Spain, since known by the name of Charles VI. emperor of Germany, was conveyed by a fleet of English and Dutch men of war to Lisbon, where he arrived from Portsmouth on the 25th of February, in thirteen days. In sailing up the Tagus, the king was saluted by all the forts and castles, with a triple discharge of all their cannon, striking their flags three several times before they fired.

Sir George Rook anchored with the fleet below Belem, a league short of the king's palace; where Mr. Methven, the English ambassador's son (his father being confined with the gout) went on board, and welcomed his majesty, in name of
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the queen of England, as did the duke of Cadaval, the same evening, in name of his majesty of Portugal.

The catholic king sent immediately the prince of Lichtenstein to return the compliment, and to condole his Portuguese majesty on the death of the Infanta, his eldest daughter, whom the king of Spain was to have married, had she not died a few days before his arrival.

On the 27th of February, the king of Spain was received at Lisbon, in a manner sufficient to describe the magnificence of the Portuguese.

He was on board the Royal Catherine, which with the other ships of war, sailed up, and anchored over against the royal palace, the castles on both sides the river firing continually. Between four and five in the afternoon, the king of Portugal, accompanied by the two princes his eldest sons, with several of the grandees, embarked on board a very noble brigantine, rowed by forty men, clad in crimson velvet,

vet, faced with silver, attended by the rest of the nobility in barges and feluccas, and went on board the admiral's ship. When his majesty came by the ship's side, he struck his flag; and when he entered the ship, Sir George struck his, let fly his streamer, and saluted him with twenty five guns, which was taken from the whole fleet, and answered on shore. His catholic majesty received the king of Portugal at the ladder head, which upon this occasion was made very commodious. and conducted him to his cabin, giving him the right hand. After a short stay there, and taking a most magnificent desert prepared for them, the two kings entered the brigantine.

On putting off, both ships hoisted their flags, and Sir George gave two salutes, each of five and twenty guns, which the other ships followed.

His catholic majesty had the right hand on board the brigantine, and both kings landed under a triumphal arch, erected

erected at the head of a very magnificent bridge, built for that purpose. The bridge was adorned with several other triumphal arches, which run a good way into the river from the palace gate.

At landing, the king of Portugal gave his catholic majesty the right, and taking him by the hand, led him along the bridge to the palace, and to the royal chapel, where Te Deum was sung on account of the safe arrival of the catholic king.

His catholic majesty, in token of his entire satisfaction, complimented Sir George Rook with a sword, the hilt of which was set with diamonds, a buckle for an hat-band, and a hook to cock up a hat set with diamonds also. To captain Wishart he gave his picture set with diamonds, and two hundred guineas. To captain Fletcher the like picture, but of less value, and one hundred guineas. To each of the captains who carried over his retinue, one hundred guineas and a gold medal; and to the other captains fifty pistoles

pistoles each, and fifty for their respective companies. To lord Archibald Hamilton and captain Bertie, each the like picture as to captain Fletcher, and an hundred guineas. To colonel Griffith of the board of green cloth, his majesty's picture. He likewise ordered a thousand pistoles to be distributed among the other officers of the queen's family who had attended upon him. Mr. Vernon, who was in the admiral's own ship, had an hundred guineas and a ring from his majesty's own hand.

At Lisbon there was nothing but plays, masquerades, and festivals, till the 5th, when Sir George Rook sailed from Lisbon, leaving vice admiral Leake, with orders to remain there. However, he did not get clear of the river till the 9th; and the next day, he had intelligence from a Dutch privateer of three Spanish ships of force and a dogger, with whom he came up on the 12th, and took them after a short resistance. He returned to Lisbon with

with his prizes, where the fleet was reinforced on the 21st, by one second rate man of war, four third rates, and two fireships from England, where a change had happened in the ministry, and the earl of Nottingham had resigned his place of secretary of state.

Sir George Rook was not the only person to distress the French this year by sea; for commodore Butler, in his expedition to the coast of Normandy, destroyed the French commodore, a ship of twenty two guns, a frigate of fourteen, with ten merchantmen, and two privateers, to the westward of Grandance bay.

Sir Cloudesley Shovel took four prizes also. He was joined at sea by Sir George Rook, who sailed from Lisbon on the 29th of April, with thirty seven ships of the line, and four fireships.

In a few days, the French fleet, under the command of the count de Tholouse, a natural son of Lewis XIV. appeared off the Rock of Lisbon, directing their
course

course to the Mediterranean ; upon which a frigate was dispatched with the news to Sir George, who, in place of going to Nice or Villa Franca, diverted his course to wait for the enemy ; six of whose ships of war fell in with the English fleet off Cape Palos, to the eastward of Carthage-
na, nigh which port they had escaped in the night time.

From Carthage-
na Sir George proceeded to Barcelona, where some troops were landed, while the fleet bombarded it by sea, but to no purpose ; and therefore he retired, after reembarking the marines.

Having put to sea with a good breeze, on the 27th of May, the French fleet were descried, and pursued into the harbour of Toulon, whence Sir George steered his course to the mouth of the Streights, where he was joined by the squadron under Sir Cloudesley Shovel, between whom and him it was agreed to make a sudden attempt on Gibraltar.

The

The fleet was then about seven leagues to the eastward of Tetuan, whence they sailed on the night of the 20th, and in the morning got into the bay.

The same evening the marines, both English and Dutch, to the number of eighteen hundred, headed by the prince of Hesse, were landed on the isthmus to the northward of the town. This done, his highness sent a summons to the governor, demanding the town should be surrendered to King Charles III. which being refused, the admiral ordered in some boats, under captain Whitaker, who burnt a French privateer at the old Mole.

On the 23d, soon after the break of day, the ships being all placed, a furious cannonading began. Above 10,000 shot were discharged in five hours, against the town. The enemy were beat from their guns in every quarter.

The south Mole head was taken possession of by captains Whitaker, Hicks, and

and Jumper; they pushed on shore with their pinaces and some armed boats. The enemy sprung a mine, which blew up the fortifications upon the mole, killed two lieutenants, with about forty private men, and wounded sixty. However, the brave tars kept possession of the platform, until captain Whitaker had landed the other seamen who had been ordered upon the service. They advanced, took a redout half way between the mole and the town, and possessed themselves of many of the enemy's cannon.

The admiral on this sent a letter to the governor, and another to the prince of Hesse, desiring his highness to summon the garrison peremptorily to surrender the town.

Accordingly, the next day in the morning, a capitulation was proposed by them, and hostages were exchanged. The capitulation being concluded, every thing in the place was given up, except three brass cannons, with twelve charges of powder.

powder and ball, provision for six days march, and whatever might be carried out in trunks and portmanteaus. The subjects of the French king were only excepted.

Things being thus settled, the prince marched into the town in the evening, took possession of the land and north mole gates, and the outworks.

They found an hundred guns mounted on the ramparts, all facing the sea, and the two narrow passes to the land. There was a sufficient quantity of ammunition and provision; but then the garrison consisted only of one hundred and fifty men, who, if less numerous, might have defended the works, in the opinion of the most skilful engineers, against several thousands. But what cannot bravery, when seconded by conduct and experience, be able to do!

The assailants had only sixty men killed, two of whom were lieutenants, and one a master of a ship. Two hundred
and

and sixteen were wounded ; among whom was one captain, seven lieutenants, and a boatswain : a very inconsiderable loss in obtaining so great and so glorious a conquest.

It is a failing in human nature, to raise doubts where there are none, and to figure dangers when these are at the greatest distance, in this promoting the enemy's cause more than the enemy themselves do.

However, this was not the case with Sir George Rook, nor with the prince of Hesse ; they pushed boldly on, “ and “ fortune favoured the brave.” For the day of the attack being Sunday, almost all the women in the town had gone to a little chapel at four miles distance, to implore the assistance of the virgin Mary : the English and Dutch soldiers, being on the isthmus that divides Gibraltar from the main land, were between the Spanish soldiers and their wives, which was a very great inducement to the citizens to oblige the governor to capitulate.

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The reduction of Gibraltar was followed by a sea-fight off Barcelona, between the French fleet and those of England and Holland: the former consisted of fifty ships of the line, and eight frigates; the latter of three and fifty, twelve of which were Dutch.

The engagement began in the morning of the 13th August, and continued obstinate for two hours, when the van and rear of the French began to give way, the former fled from Sir Cloudesley Shovel, and the latter from the Dutch admiral. However, the main body of the French was very strong, and the ammunition of the English ships being spent before Gibraltar, several ships of rear admiral Byng's and Dilke's division withdrew from the line; so that the taking of Gibraltar was the deliverance of the fleet commanded by the count de Tholouse.

The battle ended with the day; and the French fleet, by the help of their gallies, went to the leeward, never more

to

to return to the charge, which Sir George Rook wanted to renew next morning.

Both fleets were roughly handled, every captain and sailor behaving beyond the power of cavil or reflexion: the English spirit never was more prevalent than in the seamen on that memorable day.

The French steered for Toulon, and the confederates returned to Gibraltar, whence Sir George Rook set out for England, taking with him such of the ships as had not been disabled, having left Sir John Leake with the rest.

He arrived at Spithead on the 25th of September, and on the 29th waited on the queen, who received him in the most gracious manner; and, with her royal consort, expressed an entire satisfaction with every part of his conduct.

On the 9th of October, Sir Cloudefley Shovel and several of his captains went to Windsor to wait on her majesty, who re-

ceived them very graciously, and conferred the honour of knighthood on captain John Jennings, commander of the *St. George*, for his signal service in the late sea-engagement. Not long after, the same honour was conferred on George Byng esq; rear-admiral of the red squadron, and on Thomas Dilkes esq; rear-admiral of the white. The other officers and seamen likewise shared amply of the royal bounty, and Mr. Vernon received a purse of two hundred guineas from her majesty's own hand.

In the beginning of the year 1705, the Spaniards besieged Gibraltar. The French were desirous to have it restored, but the English were eager to retain it.

The efforts of the house of Bourbon, now more closely than ever united in one common cause, were fruitless. They lost several of their ships at different times; particularly, on the 10th of March, three of their men of war were taken, and two others, one of them the *Magnanimous*,

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on board of which was the admiral Monsieur de Ponti, run a-shore to the westward of Marbella, and were burnt by the French themselves; whose courage not abating, it was judged proper to keep a fleet constantly in the Mediterranean for favouring the operations of the war.

Sir Cloudesley Shovel was again sent into these parts. He hoisted his flag on board the Britannia, and was followed by seven more ships of the line, commanded by Sir John Jennings. On their coming to Lisbon, the united fleets of England and Holland consisted of three first rates, six second rates, twelve third rates, and eight fourth rates, in all twenty nine ships of the line, beside fifth and sixth rates, fire-ships, bomb-vessels, and small craft.

On the 17th of July, his catholic majesty went on board the Ranelagh at Lisbon, and sailed for Gibraltar; where, under protection of the fleet, he first took possession of his kingdom.

From Gibraltar the fleet, having twelve thousand land forces on board, sailed on the 5th of August to Altea bay, where they watered, and where the people came in from all parts to offer their service to king Charles, and to implore his protection. They brought with them all manner of provision and refreshments, for which they were liberally paid. The other towns and villages, for an hundred miles round, soon followed their example. In several places, the peasants rose in a body, and seized some towns in which was but a slender garrison.

From Altea the fleet sailed for the bay of Barcelona; where having anchored, the Spaniards began to fire from the mole, and from a battery near the sea, upon the transports as they approached the shore. The governor's jealousy not a little contributed to this success; for being apprehensive that some of the garrison were in the interest of King Charles, he deferred marching out of the town.

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The next day, the prince of Hesse-Darmstadt landed with the forces, unmolested, at Badelona, a place a league distant from the former, the inhabitants lending all possible assistance. Next day, the city was invested, while the people of the country secured all the avenues leading to their camp.

On the 17th his catholic majesty went on shore, the whole fleet having saluted him at his departure. He was welcomed by a triple discharge of the small arms from the camp on shore, and by the loudest acclamations from the country people who came in crowds to receive him.

The generals however, mistaking the strength of the place, began to despair of success, and the sea officers declared for bombarding the town from the fleet, while the approaches were made by land. But as the king would not consent to this, the enterprize was near being laid aside, and a resolution taken to sail for Ferra-

gona; which would have happened, had not the king, who was personally present in the council of war, interposed.

Both English and Dutch officers were of opinion, that their force was unequal to the task, the garrison being nearly as numerous as the besiegers. Almost every person was persuaded, till the king himself arose from his seat, and in a speech which lasted near half an hour, removed all their objections; treating every one whose argument he handled with particular civilities and the most generous address. He supported what the prince of Hesse had asserted concerning the good affections of many in the town. He said, that in the state in which his affairs then stood, nothing could be proposed but what would be attended with difficulties. All was doubtful, and must be put to the hazard, and this seemed less dangerous than any thing else that had been proposed. “Many,” continued he, “of
“ my subjects have come and declared for
“ me,

“ me, to the hazard of their lives ; it be-
 “ comes me therefore to let them see that
 “ I will run the same hazard with them :
 “ and I desire that every one of you,
 “ gentlemen, would stay so long with me,
 “ till such attempts shall be made, as all
 “ the world may be convinced that no-
 “ thing could be done. But if the orders
 “ given any of you oblige you to leave
 “ me, yet I cannot leave my own sub-
 “ jects.”

The words of the king were persuasive.
 The army sat down before Barcelona ;
 nor were they discouraged, though the
 stores, upon examination, were found
 defective in quality, and far short of the
 quantities which by their lists they ex-
 pected to find. Whether this followed
 from treachery or carelessness is but a cir-
 cumstance, there is much of both in all
 publick offices.

The prince of Hesse advised the sur-
 prising of the castle and citadel of Montjoy,

which scheme the earl of Peterborough approved of. The attack was made on the second of September with great resolution, but with the loss of his highness: a musket-ball passed thro' his thigh, tore an artery, and occasioned a vast effusion of blood; but not to discourage his men, he marched on as if he had not been wounded, till the spirits of his great heart being no longer able to support him, he all of a sudden fell to the ground. After his death the assailants began to retire by the orders of the commanding officer, of which the earl of Peterborough being informed, he advanced up and rallied them, transported with indignation at the orders; he countermanded them, drew his sword, and threw away his scabbard, saying, "Sure
" I am, all brave men will follow me." On this the men marched on with alacrity, his lordship exposing himself all the time to the greatest danger.

On the 6th the citadel, with all the works belonging to it, surrendered to co-

lonel Southwell, who was made governor of it as a recompence of his bravery.

After this success the siege was pushed with great vigour, the trenches were opened on the ninth; a battery of fifty guns and twenty mortars begun to play, and by the king's command, the bomb-veffels threw about four hundred and twelve shells into the town. Eight men of war English and Dutch, under Sir Stafford Fairhorn, cannonaded it from the sea; while the batteries plyed it on the shore. Many of the towns-people run out in crowds for protection; others murmured exceedingly, and pressed the governor to capitulate: their intreaties were heard; a capitulation was signed the twenty-eighth, when the gate and bastion of St. Antonio was delivered up, as was the city in three days after.

On the 2d of October the king made his entry into Barcelona, attended by some of the grandees of Spain, the admirals of the fleet, the general officers, and a nume-

rous retinue, of whom Mr. Vernon was one: the people received him with repeated acclamations and huzzas; and with alacrity took the oath of fidelity to him, being charmed with his behaviour, and the part he acted in gaining the town, in which he continued for some time, being strengthened by all the land-forces and marines that could be spared from the fleet, which under Sir Cloudesley Shovel set sail, having put on board the governor of Barcelona, with about a thousand men of the garrison, who were the only people not to lift in the service of king Charles. The admiral landed these at Alicant and Malaga, whence he proceeded to Gibraltar, where he stayed three days; and having appointed some ships to convoy the trade from Lisbon, he himself arrived at Spithead: a few days after he came to London, where he was received by the queen and prince with those marks of esteem which his services deserved.

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The Spaniards in the interest of king Philip, exerted themselves for the recovery of Barcelona, while the English and Dutch used every method to retain it. On the 18th of April Sir John Leake and commodore Price, with six Dutch ships of war, came opportunely to Altea, where Sir George Byng joined him, in order to relieve the place, then closely blocked up by a French squadron; while a numerous army sat down before it on the land-side. On the 26th the earl of Peterborough went on board the Prince George, taking upon him the command of the fleet as admiral; and next day, by help of a fresh gale, came before the town, where the forces and marines were landed, to the unspeakable joy of the inhabitants, who expected to be stormed that very night. They were next day reviewed by the king, who expressed his gratitude to the generals, in terms adequate to the sense of the danger he was in. The French continued the siege for two days longer, but,

but, on the 30th of April they raised it in great confusion and precipitation, having first set fire to their camp and stores; but the town-people soon extinguished the flames, and the fugitives were terribly harassed by the volunteers from the city, the Miquelets and peasants from the mountains skirmishing till night separated them.

The relief of Barcelona was followed by other advantages: the kingdom of Valentia declared for king Charles, and Carthagea was surrendered on the 2d of June to the earl of Peterborough. The city of Alicant was taken by storm, the castle soon surrendered, Yvica submitted to the conqueror, and Majorca was reduced, the inhabitants themselves obliging the viceroy to capitulate.

The enemy was annoyed this year in many parts; for Sir Stafford Fairborn, vice-admiral of the red, was sent on an expedition to Rochfort, having with him two ships of eighty guns, three of seventy,
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one of sixty, and one of fifty, to be followed by two more.

His instructions were to proceed with all possible secrecy to the mouth of the river Charente, and to use his utmost endeavours to take and destroy such ships as the enemy might be fitting out from Rochefort, which commonly lay before the mouth of that river, to take in their guns, stores, and provisions; when he should have done his utmost in this attempt, he was to assist at a council of war, to consider what further service might be performed against the enemy in the Bay, or on the French coast or elsewhere; and to endeavour to put in execution what should be agreed on, so as to return by the middle of May to Plymouth, in regard there might by that time be occasion for his services elsewhere.

On the 24th of April he set sail; and after a tedious passage, by means of contrary winds, he got off the river Charente, where he made a good disposition for

for burning the enemy's ships before Rochelle; but, the winds not favouring, he returned to Plymouth on the 17th of May, with some small prizes taken between the isles of Rhé and Oleron, where they likewise took and destroyed ten trading vessels with their boats. Another descent was concerted this year (1706) upon the French coast, under the conduct of Sir Cloudesley Shovel, with whom Mr. Vernon then was; and this perhaps would have succeeded, had not the Dutch frustrated the scheme by their delays.

Though the Dutch by their backwardness prevented an attempt upon the coast of France, yet they could not hinder their proceeding to Alicant, whither Sir Cloudesley Shovel sailed from Lisbon January the 7th, 1707; the forces were landed on the 28th, and the fleet returned to the same port on the 11th of February.

At this time the British troops in Spain being in great want of money, clothes, provisions, and other necessaries, Sir
George

George Byng failed the 30th of March with supplies. When he came off Cape Vincent, he had an account of the battle of Almanza, which made him proceed for Tortosa, taking with him the sick and wounded at Deuca, Gandia, and Valentia. In this work he was employed almost the whole month of April; and from thence sailing to Barcelona, he was joined by Sir Cloudesley Shovel on the 20th of May, when an attempt was concerted against Toulon, to which city the duke of Savoy and prince Eugene were marching at the head of thirty thousand men.

The fleet, to favour the operations by land, anchored before Final, on the 5th of June. From Final they sailed to a place between Antibes and Nice; at the former of which Sir Cloudesley Shovel had a conference with the duke of Savoy concerning the passage of the Var, where the enemy had thrown up entrenchments.

Four British men of war and one Dutch, under the command of Sir John Norris, attended by about six hundred seamen and marines in open boats, sailed into the mouth of the river; and, being advanced within musket-shot of the enemy's works, made such a terrible fire upon them, that their cavalry, and many of their foot, quitted their entrenchments.

Sir Cloudefley followed Sir John to the place of action; and observing the disorder of the enemy, he commanded him to land with the seamen and marines, and flank them in their entrenchments. This service Sir John performed with so much conduct, and his men advanced with so much valour and resolution, that the French fled from their works, of which Sir John took possession, and opened a way for the duke of Savoy, who passed the river about half an hour after, without opposition, and marched directly to Toulon.

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This service done, the fleet sailed for the isles of Hieres ; and on the 15th of July the army came to Valette before Toulon. They directly began to work on a line which was to extend from Valette as far as the sea, in order to communicate with the fleet, and thence to receive artillery and provisions.

The 17th, admiral Shovel, with some of the chief officers of the fleet, went to the camp, and had a conference with his royal highness and the other general officers, at the head quarters where they dined.

The conference turned upon the siege of Toulon ; to save which, and to prevent their whole fleet from being fired, the French sunk about twenty of their men of war in the harbour, ten of which were of three decks.

On the 2d of August the batteries were finished on both sides, and began to play. The confederate fleet came to an anchor in the road, where the division under admiral

miral Dilkes forced the enemy to abandon a battery of ten guns.

The next day some of the ships advanced farther into the road, and battered fort St. Lewis with such success, that all the guns which defended it were silenced.

On the 4th, the French made a vigorous sally, and forced most of the confederates out of the works; which, with an unlucky accident that drove Sir George Byng's own ship foul of a Dutch man of war, discouraged the besiegers, and even made prince Eugene declare against continuing the operations. The cannon was withdrawn, and the necessary dispositions were made to embark the sick and wounded.

On the 10th, the fleet drew as near the town as possible. Five bomb-vessels, supported by the light frigates, and the boats of the men of war, under admiral Dilkes, advanced into the creek of fort St. Lewis; and notwithstanding the enemy's great fire, bombarded the town and har-

harbour from that day at noon till five next morning. They set fire to the great magazine of cordage; quite ruined several stately buildings; and destroyed eight men of war, two of ninety, one of eighty six, one of seventy six, one of seventy, two of sixty, and one of fifty four guns: but the enemy brought so many guns and mortars against those vessels as made them retire not a little damaged.

That same night the confederate army marched from Valette, in five columns, taking the same route as they did when they came to Toulon.

The expedition against Toulon failing, admiral Shovel withdrew to the coast of Italy, in order to perform something that might compensate their disappointment at Toulon: but as nothing was to be done there, he set sail for England, which he unfortunately never reached. For on the 22d of October he came into the soundings, where he had ninety fathom water in the morning, and in the afternoon brought

brought the fleet to, and lay by with a very fresh gale at S. S. W. the weather being hazy. At six at night he made sail again, and stood away under his courses, E. b. N. believing, as is presumed, that he had the channel open, and saw the light of Scilly. Soon after which, several of the ships made the signal of danger, as he himself did. Sir George Byng, who was about half a mile to the windward of him, saw the breaches of the sea, and soon after the rocks of Scilly above water. On one of which, known by the name of the bishop and his clerks, the Association, in which was the admiral, struck; and in less than two minutes there was nothing of her to be seen. The ship of Sir George Byng was providentially saved by his own presence of mind, even when one of the rocks was almost under her main-chains. Sir John Norris and lord Dursley with great difficulty disentangled themselves from the threatening fate. The St. George, of which his lordship had the command, was

was dashed on the same ridge of rocks with the Association ; and the same wave which he saw beat out Sir Cloudefley's lights, set his ship a-float. The Eagle man of war perished with all her crew : the Phoenix was lost, but her crew were saved. In this ship was Mr. Vernon, who, in the account sent to his friends of the disaster, magnifies the greatness of the providence by which he was saved ; and from that day forward, he entertained awful thoughts of a future state.

T H E
L I F E
O F
Admiral V E R N O N.

B O O K II.

The procedure of Sir John Norris to the Baltick, where captain Vernon was, with the transactions there: articles of the peace of Utrecht; and the death of queen Anne.

THE war still continuing between the allies and France, Mr. Vernon had further opportunities of putting in practice what he had learned in so many years campaigns, and under the eye of so many great commanders.

The French in the year 1707 had some success, by taking several Russia merchant

chant ships. A squadron of their men of war fell in with a British fleet of about an hundred and thirty sail for Lisbon with merchandizes, provisions, and stores, and a thousand horses, which sailed from Plymouth on the 9th of October, under convoy of five men of war. The engagement between the fleets was long and obstinate, and though few of the transports were taken, yet three of the men of war, the Cumberland, Chester, and Ruby, fell into the hands of the enemy; the Devonshire of eighty guns was blown up. Mr. Vernon was in the Royal oak of seventy six guns, which the Achille boarded; but both of the bowsprits being broken, the British ship made off for Kingsale, where she arrived with some few vessels, having only lost twelve men killed, and twenty four wounded.

The 23d of October 1707 was memorable for the meeting of the first British parliament, which after two adjournments sat on the 6th of November for the dis-

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patch of business. The commons voted an address to her majesty for her gracious speech from the throne; but the lords, instead of this, entered immediately upon an examination into the state of the navy, and the late mismanagements: which on the 29th were taken into particular consideration in a committee of the whole house, where the queen was present incognito; a petition, given in by the sheriffs of the city of London, and subscribed by about two hundred of the most eminent merchants of the city, was read; complaining of the great losses they had lately sustained at sea, for want of convoys and cruizers, and craving a speedy remedy.

A very warm debate arose upon the subject, the result of which was to appoint a committee to receive proposals for encouraging trade and privateers in the West-Indies; which through the weakness, or rather the bad disposition of those who had credit with prince George of Denmark, now in the decline of life, were

no way inconsiderable. The other trading towns followed the example of the metropolis, and were severally heard upon the ground of their complaints.

To remedy former disasters, and to protect the nation from an invasion, Sir George Byng was sent with a fleet to the coast of Scotland, where the old chevalier intended to land.

On the 6th of March the French fleet sailed from the road of Dunkirk, and Sir George getting intelligence of them, he pursued them to the firth of Forth, whence he drove them, and took the Salisbury man of war, in which were a great number of French, English, and Irish officers; the rest escaped to Dunkirk.

But while Sir George Byng scoured the firth of Forth, Sir John Leake and Sir Edward Whitaker traversed the Mediterranean, in which the latter succeeded so well, as to reduce the island of Minorca.

At the time he was making preparations for attacking Portmahon, he order-

ed captain Butler in the Dunkirk, and captain Fairborn in the Centurion, to go and batter Fornelle, that the transports might safely ride into the harbour of that name.

They anchored before it the ninth of September, after visiting Barcelona, Vado, and the coast of Sardinia : In a few hours the garrison, consisting of fifty men, surrendered prisoners of war.

On the 11th the garrison of Citadella, consisting of an hundred Frenchmen and as many Spaniards, surrendered at the sight of a detachment of our troops and two men of war.

On the 17th Portmahon itself was reduced by storm, notwithstanding the enemy's fire from their forts. They beat a parley on the 18th, and on the 19th possession was taken of that important fortress ; which was a sensible stroke to the house of Bourbon.

The French, in order to retrieve their losses and disappointments in the Mediterranean

terranean and elsewhere, dispatched M. du Casse with a squadron, having for its destination no less than the conquest of Jamaica; which fell to Sir Charles Wager's share to protect, who had cruised on the coast of Hispaniola for several months before.

On the 23d of December he came into Port-Royal, where he consulted with his officers on the different advices he had received; at the same time sending out ships and sloops for intelligence.

On the 16th of February he sailed with the Windsor, Expedition, Kingston, Severn, Assistance, Hector and Vulture fire-ships; and receiving advice that the Spanish galleons had sailed from Carthagena to Portobello, he sailed for that place.

On the 25th he came to an anchor off the isle of Pines, where the fleet was supplied with wood and water: but being informed that the galleons would not sail till May, he returned again to Port-

Royal, where he arrived on the 6th of April, and continued to take in provisions and other necessaries. Which being effected, in about eight days, he again set sail for Carthagena, near the mouth of which discovering several vessels, he chased them as far as Bocca Chica.

About this time the masts of the Expedition man of war were damaged by thunder, which however did not hinder the admiral from pursuing his scheme of taking the galleons, of whose intended voyage to Carthagena he received advice on the 23d of May.

About ten in the morning of the 28th he got sight of them, and resolved upon the attack. The Kingston was ordered to attack the vice-admiral, the Portland to engage the rear-admiral. While the commodore made up to the admiral, which he plied so close, that in about an hour an half she blew up, the other ships separated in the dark : however, their rear-admiral was chased and taken, and
the

the rest were vigorously pursued, one of which was burnt by the enemy, lest it should fall into the hands of the English. After this expedition, the commodore returned to Port-Royal with the prizes he had taken.

The new act of parliament, called the cruising and convoy act, giving all prizes to the captors, and directing agents to be appointed, being come to Jamaica before the commodore's return, he thought himself obliged to comply therewith. His temper was sweetened by the commission for being rear-admiral of the blue, which was brought over to him by the Jersey, whereof Mr. Vernon was captain, who arrived in company with the Monmouth and Roebuck on the 24th, at Port-Royal.

Captain Vernon was not long here before he gave a blow to the enemy: for in January he took a Spanish sloop laden with tobacco, and retook from the French sloops a Guinea ship, in which were four hundred Negroes. The Portland took a

French prize near Cape St. Nicholas, and the Roebuck brought in a brigantine bound to Port-François, which was a nest for French privateers.

After the service of the year was up, admiral Wager set sail for England, and arrived with the Jersey, on the 20th of November, at St. Helens, leaving the command of the ships at Jamaica with captain Tudor Trevor; to whose assistance commodore Littleton was sent in a short time after.

On the 24th of August the commodore sailed with the Jersey and Weymouth from St. Helens, and landed at Port-Royal in Jamaica on the 28th of November 1710. Some time after, a fleet of ships arriving from England, having escaped M. du Cassé's squadron the commodore was endeavouring to engage.

On the 15th of July he set sail towards Carthagená for this very purpose, and on the 26th arrived on the coast. His first information was by some trading vessels
from

from Madeira ; his next by a Carthagena sloop, in which was found a letter from the governor of that place to the governor of Mexico : but the most circumstantial account was from captain Vernon of the Jersey, who brought in with him a merchant ship belonging to Brest of thirty guns and an hundred and twenty men ; which ship had sailed from Port-Louis in company with M. du Cassé. She came from trading on the coast of Spain, but had put all her money on shore at Port-Louis.

Captain Vernon in the Jersey was next day sent to the coast of New-Spain, where arriving on the 28th of June, he looked into the port of Carthagena, and saw twelve ships, six rigged, and six unrigged, among the former of which he believed the vice-admiral of the galleons was ; and besides there were five sloops in that harbour.

On these assurances the admiral sailed, and on the 26th of July he arrived on

[the coast of New-Spain, and pursued five ships into Bocca Chica the entrance of Cartagena harbour. He stood off to sea that night, and stretching in the next morning, chased four other ships. Between five and six, a prize taken by the Salisbury, captain Robert Harland, came up with him, and engaged the vice-admiral of the galleons: the Salisbury, captain Francis Hosier, soon did the same; and the commodore being just ready to fire within pistol-shot, the galleon yielded. She had sixty brass guns, and three hundred and twenty five men.

The Jersey took a merchant ship of four hundred tuns and twenty six guns, laden chiefly with cocoa and wool; but the vessel that was chased by the Nonsuch escaped.

Captain Vernon in the Jersey was afterwards sent by the commodore to Port-Royal in Jamaica, where he arrived on the 17th of October, with a fine prize of one hundred tuns, laden chiefly with indigo and sugar, which he had taken on the

the north side of Cuba. The Thetis, a French man of war of forty four guns, was brought in by the Weymouth and Windsor into the same port.

That winter captain Vernon in the Jersey remained at Jamaica, in company with commodore Littleton, by whom he was frequently sent out for intelligence : and on the 20th of February he run a French ship of about twenty guns on shore, where she beat to pieces.

The time was now drawing near when the face of affairs in Europe was entirely to change. For France, whose fleets fled on all sides before those of England and Holland, had now recourse to every art and method for breaking the grand alliance between the Empire, the queen of England, and the States-general.

For this purpose no scheme was left untried for distracting the British counsels, and for bringing over a party in the British ministry : and while the emissaries of France were laying down the mighty ad-

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vantages.

Wm Vernon

vantages that would accrue to England from a peace with their king, a project was set on foot for bringing in the pretender. And though the duke of Marlborough, on the 11th 1711, had forced the French lines, 'without a drop of blood,' yet his interest and party begun to decline. The earl of Oxford and lord Bolingbroke got the better of him. His grace was dismissed from all his employments, and the duke of Ormond, who was very hearty for bringing about a separate peace, was substituted in his room.

A cessation of arms was proclaimed on the same day, both in the French and British camps: a step to which the after-progress of the French arms was much owing. They regained in one campaign what they lost during the course of nine before.

The British fleets did not much interrupt the trade and commerce of the enemy. One year with another, the admiralty were short of furnishing half the
number

number of ships of the line which they ought to have done. This deficiency not only obstructed farther conquests on France, but was a great weakening to the British navy; the ships being obliged to continue in greater numbers in the remote seas, and at unseasonable times of the year, to the great detriment of trade: the ships which should have been employed as convoys and cruisers being absolutely necessary to supply their deficiencies; not to mention what use might have been made of those in the West-Indies, whence captain Vernon, after a three years stay, was recalled.

What tended to make the seamen sick of expeditions was the frequent disappointments they met with, particularly in the expedition to Quebec in Canada, under the command of Sir Hovenden Walker, eight transports having been lost, with about nine hundred men, including officers, soldiers and sailors. 'Tis true,
the

the men of-war escaped with the greatest hardship and difficulty.

The efforts of France at last brought about the peace of Utrecht, anno 1713; which, among other things, included the following articles: The settlement of the crown upon the illustrious house of Hanover was acknowledged by the French king: The union between France and Spain was prevented: The benefit of the assiento trade, and the privilege of sending a ship annually to the West-Indies was granted to the South-sea company, which had been lately erected: Gibraltar and Pormahon were ceded to Great-Britain: Hudson's bay and the Streights were yielded, and the damages sustained by the English trading thither were made good: All rights of the French to St. Christopher's were renounced: Nova Scotia and the city of Annapolis-Royal, with their Dependencies, were left in the possession of the British nation: Such parts as the
French.

French possessed in Newfoundland were yielded; and the harbour of Dunkirk was filled up, and the fortifications, which cost immense sums, were demolished.

However, things continued in an unsettled state till the death of her majesty queen Anne, on the 1st of August 1714; which again brought things to the same channel as they were in the lifetime of her royal consort.

T H E
L I F E
O F
Admiral V E R N O N.

B O O K III.

*The accession of king George I. to the throne.
Proceedings of the fleet in the Baltick.
Captain Vernon is chosen member of parliament for Penryn.*

TH E earl of Dorset carried the news of the queen's death to Herenhausen; whence his majesty king George set out on the last of August for England, accompanied by the prince-royal, who now sways the sceptre.

He arrived at the Hague on the 5th of September, was congratulated by deputies from the States on his accession to
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the crown, as likewise by all the foreign ambassadors, in the name of their respective masters.

On the 16th of September, he landed at Greenwich, where he was received with the loudest acclamations, and was waited upon by the chief nobility, the generals of the army, the lords of the admiralty, the admirals of the navy, and the captains of the ships. Among whom captain Vernon was one, and had the honour to kiss his majesty's hand for the first time.

That very day the duke of Marlborough was received into favour, and the duke of Ormond was dismiss'd from all his employments.

There was a thorough change in the ministry ; the consequence of which was, a change of officers both in the army and navy. However, captain Vernon continued in his command, being in high esteem with Sir Charles Wager, for whom his majesty had declared a particular regard.

On

On the 18th of September, the king set out from Greenwich, and made his public entry into the city of London, through which he passed to St. James's, amidst a numerous crowd of spectators, who lined the streets, filled windows, and balconies, and received him with repeated acclamations. Captain Vernon was one of the cavalcade.

The change in the admiralty happened on the 11th of October, when the right honourable the earl of Orford, Sir George Byng, George Doddington, esq; Sir John Jennings, Sir Charles Turner, Abraham Stanyan, esq; and George Baillie, were appointed lords of the admiralty; and to each of whom captain Vernon was personally known.

On the 20th the king was crowned at Westminster, with the usual solemnities; and on the 29th, which is lord mayor's day, he, with the prince and princess of Wales, dined at Guildhall, and appeared very chearful and jocose: on the 15th of
January,

January, a proclamation was published for calling a new parliament to meet on the 17th of March, when they met accordingly; and on the first of April voted a supply for the navy, which was sent into different stations.

On the 18th of May, Sir John Norris, admiral of the blue, was sent with a squadron into the Baltic, where he arrived on the 10th of June, in order to protect the trade of his majesty's subjects against the depredations of the Swedish privateers. And now captain Vernon had an opportunity of being acquainted with the north-eastern part of Europe, as he had been with the coast upon the Meditteranean and West-Indies, being at that time commander of the Assistance, a fifty gun ship, and in Sir John Norris's own division.

A Dutch squadron was sent into the Baltic at the same time, and for the same purpose. At Cronenburgh it joined the British ships, between which and them there passed mutual salutes from their
great

great guns. The admirals, and some of the captains, among whom was captain Vernon, were magnificently entertained at the Danish court, from whence they proceeded with a fair wind on the 17th, and conducted the merchant ships under them, to Dantzic, Konigsberg, Riga, Revel, and the respective ports of their destination.

The Swedish privateers continuing to interrupt the trade of his majesty's subjects, Sir John Norris was sent again into the Baltic, where he arrived on the 7th of June with a fleet of twenty-one ships of the line, having fifty merchant men under convoy. The 13th he went to Fredericksberg, where he had an audience of the king of Denmark ; and in obedience to his orders from England, joined the Danish and Russian fleets, who were then meditating a descent upon Schonen, where the king of Sweden himself was preparing every thing necessary to frustrate their design.

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That monarch, whose name was famous for his many victories, and losses, was now become remarkable for his obstinacy: the northern powers were turned against him, and more were daily coming in: the king of Prussia joined the Russians, Saxons and Danes, and over-ran Pomerania, to the gates of Stralsund; out of which his Swedish majesty had escaped with difficulty, after a four months siege, in which he performed more than ever could enter the heart of a Roman to do. The Hanoverians also joined against him, and he judging that the English squadron acted in consequence of this step, meditated nothing but revenge: he caused intimate to Sir John Norris, that if he joined the fleets of Russia and Denmark, all the goods of the British merchants in Sweden should be confiscated; however, these menaces were not to deter the British admiral, he joined the fleet of the Confederates, and led the van on the day that they sailed from the road of Copenhagen: the Czar was in the center,
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the Danes bringing up the rear, while the Dutch convoyed the trading vessels to their different ports.

The British fleet sailed to the Baltic in the two succeeding years, and effectually secured the freedom of commerce in those parts.

The latter end of the year 1718 was remarkable for the death of the king of Sweden, whose kingdom being quite exhausted of men, money, and provisions, the queen, who was younger sister to Charles XII. expressed a desire of making peace with all her neighbours, particularly Great Britain.

The Czar of Muscovy had, upon the death of the king of Sweden, discovered a thorough change in the political system of Stockholm ; for he and Charles XII. had concerted measures for uniting their forces together, and even distracting the rest of Europe : and as this change had happened, he endeavoured, by the mediation of forty thousand plenipotentiaries, what he thought himself sure of, by means
of

of baron Gortz, a few months before: he ravaged Finland, and the northern provinces of Sweden with fire and sword, and once landed within three leagues of Stockholm: the brutal cruelties committed by the Russians, were shocking to humanity, and filled every mouth with clamour against them: and perhaps the horrors of war would have spread into the southern provinces, had not the British fleet come timely to the relief of the distressed nation; for a British squadron, the same that had been in the Baltic the year before, joined the Swedish fleet off of Carlscrona, and arrived at Stockholm on the 6th of September. Sir John Norris and his officers were received with repeated acclamations by the inhabitants, who had so lately been under the most direful apprehensions from the Russian cruelty: the mediation of Great Britain for concluding peace in the north, was readily accepted by the queen of Sweden, to whom lord Carteret had proffered it.

At

At the same time, Mr. Berkley was sent with the same message to the Czar of Muscovy: but the Russian plenipotentiaries at Aland, the place of congress, refusing him a passport to Petersburgh, and scrupling to receive lord Carteret's and Sir John Norris's letters, without previous orders from the Czar, he returned; and about the middle of September, the congress broke up. All this time the fleet returned near Stockholm, where the officers paid frequent visits to the nobility, and shar'd in all the diversions of the court. But the winter season advancing, Sir John sailed on the 27th of October from Elfenob, taking with him all the trade that was ready, and arrived the 6th of November at Copenhagen, where after waiting six days, he set sail for England: on the 17th the fleet was separated by a storm, which damaged some ships in their rigging, but most of them came safe into the river, and on the 29th, Sir John himself arrived in London.

This year was remarkable for the expedition of the lord Cobham into Spain, where he took Vigo, after a siege of four days, and Ponte Vedra in about as many hours ; which being effected, he returned to England with a considerable booty, purchased at a very moderate expence, having lost but about thirty of the land forces.

As the flames of war were not extinguished in the north, Sir John Norris sailed on the 16th of April, with a squadron of twenty ships of the line, for the Baltic ; on the twenty-seventh he arrived within a league of Elsenour ; and on the thirtieth had an audience of the king of Denmark at Copenhagen ; he afterward conferred with the Danish ministers, in presence of lord Polworth, the British ambassador at that court : these conferences turned upon bringing about a peace between the courts of Copenhagen and Stockholm, to which place he sailed with the fleet under his command ; he was joined at Elsenab

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by a Swedish squadron on the twentieth of May, and in four days after by seven more of the same nation, under the command of admiral Wachtmaster. These all jointly proceeded to Revel, in quest of the Russian fleet then commanded by the Czar of Muscovy in person.

All this time lord Carteret was negotiating with the queen of Sweden a treaty of peace between her majesty and the king of Denmark, in which he was greatly assisted by the prince royal, the queen's consort, who had discovered the greatest esteem and affection for his lordship : he set out for Stockholm in person, to inform the king of Denmark of what he had done : on the 29th of June he had his first audience at Fredericksburgh, four German miles from Copenhagen, where it was observed, that his majesty never gave any foreign minister so many instances of particular favour and affection. He dined oftner at the king's table than perhaps any other minister ever did in so

short a time; and in testimony of his gratitude and intire satisfaction for his assiduity in concluding the peace, he made a present to his lordship of a sword from his side, richly adorned with diamonds, and valued at four thousand eight hundred eighty-eight pounds, besides a fine set of coach horses of a particular breed, called Moors, being of a mouse colour, with very long black tails and manes, esteemed of a great value. This being over, his lordship returned to London, leaving the rest to Mr. Finch, the British ambassador at Stockholm, and to Sir John Norris, who, on the 8th of September, returned with the squadron under his command to Stockholm, where he had the honour not only to dine with the new king of Sweden, but likewise to entertain his majesty and the queen at dinner on board his own ship, where some of the richest plate was provided for that very purpose.

Many persons who were at Stockholm at the time, have declared they never saw

a more agreeable appearance, than when the king and queen of Sweden set out in a barge, attended by a vast concourse of nobility and gentry of both sexes : there were above three hundred barges to adorn the cavalcade ; they all put off at the same time, and mov'd with a slow motion to the ships, where each had an invitation to dine : the barge, in which sat the king and queen, was richly ornamented by streamers and pennants ; it was of the Venetian taste, and built in the shape of a swan, eight rowers all in ruffled shirts and black caps, with a black ribband flying at the top of each, plied the oars, and row'd the vessel to the admiral's ship, which only fired five guns, it having been judged impolite to fire more, when the queen was near. After dinner there was a ball, at which the queen herself danced, as did her royal consort, and several of the nobility : the admiral, and officers, had all the honour to kiss their majesty's hands, and some received presents from them.

This

This being over, he set sail in a few days from Stockholm, and, on the 20th of November, arrived at Orfordness, after sending four of his men of war to convoy his majesty king George from Helvoetsluys, wherè he arrived from Hanover.

During the winter, 1720, Mr. Finch was employing his utmost endeavours for reconciling the courts of Petersburgh and Stockholm; and in the spring his arguments were enforced by the arrival of a British squadron of twenty-one ships of the line, under Sir John Norris in the Baltic; on the twenty-eighth he arrived in the road of Copenhagen, on the thirty, passed the Gromds, and the second of May was joined at Hans by seven Swedish men of war. And being afterward joined by more of the same nation, he sailed for Stockholm, where, on the 2d of September, the son of count Lilanstadt, brought the treaty of peace between the king of Sweden and the Czar, signed at Nustadt, by the plenipotentiaries, on the 31st of

F 3 August.

August. This being ended, Sir John returned with the fleet to the Nore, where he landed on the 30th of October.

A squadron was this year fitted out for a secret expedition, under Sir Charles Wager, rather to terrify, than to annoy ; and so good an effect was the result of it, that the king of Portugal released two British gentlemen, messieurs Wingfield and Roberts, whose goods had been seized, and they themselves condemned to death, were released : they were charged with exporting the gold coin, a practice very common among them ; and without which our trade with Portugal could not be carried on ; one ship's loading of English wool manufactures being more in value than six returns in wine. But the king of Portugal pardoning the gentlemen, and winking at the export of gold, the design was laid aside.

The time was now approaching, when Mr. Vernon was to move in an higher sphere ; for in the year 1722, he made his
election

election for Dunwich in Suffolk, and for Penryn in Cornwall; he waved his right to the former, preferring the latter, as being the borough which his father, secretary James Vernon, esq; had represented in the year 1695, and 1698, in 1705, and the memorable year 1707, when the first British parliament met at Westminster; he also represented Penryn, till the time that the duke of Marlborough's party began to lose ground, anno 1710.

The following years afford but few naval transactions, farther than some piracies committed by the Spanish guarda costas: we shall pass over to the memorable year 1726, in which Great Britain acted like herself, and in which captain Vernon, now advanced to the command of the Grafton, of seventy guns, had no inconsiderable share.

A scheme being formed to bring in the pretender, by the united force of the two distant courts of Peterburgh and Madrid, three fleets were ordered to sea; one

of these, designed for the Baltic, was put under the command of Sir Charles Wager, vice-admiral of the red; and Sir George Walton, vice-admiral of the blue; another commanded by Sir John Jennings, was sent into the Mediterranean, and admiral Hofier, sailed with a third for the West-Indies, the better to defeat the schemes of the enemy. In the first fleet was captain Vernon; it consisted of thirty-one ships of the line, from eighty to fifty guns, one of twenty, and two fire-ships: it weighed anchor from the Nore, on the 17th of April, in the morning, and in five days arrived in the road of Copenhagen, where the rendezvous was appointed. That evening Sir Charles sent his compliments to the great chancellor, and desired to know when he might wait on his Danish majesty with the king's letter; the twenty-fifth was appointed, and then Sir Charles delivered the letter at Fredericksburch, into the king's own hand. Next day, the prince royal, and several of the Danish nobility

bility dined on board the admiral's ship, and was saluted both at coming and going, by every ship in the fleet, and in such a manner as did honour to the British nation, and gave intire satisfaction to the prince.

On the 2d of May the fleet sailed from Copenhagen, and on the sixth came to an anchor at Elfenob, near to Stockholm : next day Mr. Poyntz, the British envoy extraordinary, and Mr. Jackson, the British resident, went on board the admiral, and the day following they all went up to the city ; and on the tenth Sir Charles had an audience of the king of Sweden, in the presence of several senators, foreign ambassadors, and general officers : he delivered a letter from the king his master, to his Swedish majesty, with whom, and with the queen, he and Mr. Poyntz had the honour to dine.

A formidable squadron of British ships, under so experienced a commander as Sir Charles, could not be disagreeable either to the Danes or the Swedes, since the

power of Russia, raised almost from contempt, was now look'd upon with a jealous eye by the greatest potentates of Europe, but particularly by the Swedes, whose deep wounds they had received from the Russians, were but drying up; and it is not doubted, but the Muscovite would have begun a fresh quarrel with Sweden, under pretence of bringing in the duke of Holstein, and overturning the settlement so lately made, had not the British squadron seasonably appeared.

On the twenty-fifth the fleet sailed for Revel, near which it anchored upon the twenty-ninth, and in two days after sailed into the Bay, as did six Danish men of war, a frigate, and a victualling flyboat: the better to enforce the contents of the letter which his majesty had wrote to the Czarina, and which were in substance, to let her know, “that her great preparations for war both by sea and land, in time of peace, were the motive of his sending so powerful a fleet into those seas,

“ seas, to block up her majesty’s fleets in
 “ their harbours, and obviate any dan-
 “ ger that might ensue therefrom; that he
 “ was acquainted with, and surprized at
 “ the measures which were taking at her
 “ court, in favour of the pretender to his
 “ crown, with the encouragement that
 “ was given to his adherents.”

This letter, supported by so strong a
 fleet, had all imaginable success; for the
 court of Petersburg, in consternation,
 directed, that the men of war which were
 equipped at Revel, should be unrigged,
 and the ammunition and provisions on
 board them landed; all which was obey-
 ed: so that Sir Charles, after being fully
 satisfied that nothing was to be feared
 from Russia, whose fleets and galleys were
 laid up, he sailed on the 20th of Septem-
 ber from Revel, and on the 9th of Octo-
 ber arrived in the road of Copenhagen,
 thereby escaping a terrible storm which
 happened the night following. Next day,
 in company with lord Glenorchy, he dined

with the king and queen of Denmark, as did several of the commanders, among whom was captain Vernon.

On the 19th he sailed from Copenhagen, and on the 1st of November the squadron came to an anchor off the Gunfleet below the Nore. In two days after he waited on his majesty at Kensington, and was most graciously received.

But the court of Petersburg was not only frightened out of her designs, but likewise the court of Spain; for Sir John Jennings and rear-admiral Hopson made such an impression, that the Spaniards were obliged to lay aside their designs, which being all required of them, the admirals, after a passage of twenty four days, arrived at Spithead from Lisbon on the 22d of October.

The expedition to the West-Indies was not so successful, though a wound in those parts, is the most sensible Spain can receive; for though admiral Hosier blocked up Puerto-Bello, yet he was obliged

liged by the sickness of his men to sail for Jamaica, whence, after victualling, he sailed with nine men of war for Carthagena, where the Spanish galleons and their convoys still remained.

On the 8th of August orders came from Spain to make reprisals on the ships and effects of the English; which was done accordingly, both at the Havannah and at La Vera-Cruz, where the prince Frederick, a frigate, and four packet-boats were seized, with all the effects belonging to the English South-sea company: and though the restoration of them was demanded by admiral Hosier, who sailed with four men of war to the Havannah, yet the same was refused.

This success of the Spaniards encouraged them to entertain thoughts of regaining Gibraltar, and to force the pretender upon England, in both of which schemes they were disappointed.

The year 1727 was remarkable for the siege of Gibraltar, to whose relief Sir Charles

Charles Wager was sent with a formidable squadron, which was of considerable service; for they plied the workmen on both sides the isthmus with their ordnance so vigorously, that they were driven from the trenches.

As the British fleet remained masters at sea, and Gibraltar was relieved from Lisbon, Portmahon, and every quarter, it was needless for the Spaniards to persist in so chimerical a project. Their ships were every where seized; the Spaniards were wounded in their vitals, so that it was absolutely necessary for them to hearken to preliminaries of peace, which were signed at Madrid the 7th of June that year. These being notified to the earl of Portmore the governor of the place, a cessation of arms was agreed upon between his lordship and the Spanish general Conde las Torres.

But the court of London was not only vigilant over the Spaniards, but over the Muscovites also. Sir John Norris was sent

sent into the Baltick with a squadron of twenty ships of the line, from eighty to fifty guns, one of twenty guns, and three fire-ships.

The design of sending this fleet, in the number of which was the Grafton, captain Vernon, was the same as in the preceding year; their proceedings were alike, and the same success crowned the expedition. The Russians put a stop to the equipment of their fleet, and gave over their terrible menaces against the kingdom of Sweden: and to palliate things, the czarina renewed her declaration of the twenty first of June of the foregoing year, for the security and encouragement of the British merchants trading in and to the Russian dominions.

However, the uneasiness which her majesty contracted on account of the distractions which followed, together with her ill state of health before, cut the thread of a life that had been singular
from

from the cradle to the grave; for she died in a few days after.

His majesty king George died also this year at Osnaburgh, on the 11th of June, in the 67th year of his age. He was a prince endowed with all the bravery that ever entered the heart of an hero, and possessed all the wisdom and skill that adorn a statesman. He came with king John Sobieski to raise the siege of Vienna, which was soon effected by their means: when commanding the army of the Empire, he sacrificed the laurels he might have acquired in the upper Rhine, by sparing twenty four thousand men to reinforce the allies, before the battle of Ramillies, which ended so gloriously for them. He understood the genius, the interest, and temper of all the courts of Europe. He hated the pride of majesty, and could on a throne taste the pleasures of friendship and of a single life. He was beloved and admired by his British subjects, and, in a manner, adored by those of his electoral dominions.

He

He knew well how to govern others, and his own passions too: and, to crown all, he left a son endowed with his virtues, and now after a reign of thirty years, adorning the robes he wears.

The consequence of the king's death was the calling a new parliament, of whose members captain Vernon was one, being chosen with but little opposition for the borough of Penryn.

This step to higher preferment was not to divert him from venturing his life again in the service of his country, and soon was there an occasion for him so to do. As the Spaniards refused to raise the siege of Gibraltar, it was absolutely necessary to continue the fleet there, and to reinforce it from time to time, to bring things sooner to a conclusion.

Sir Charles Wager had been twice reinforced from England, during the summer season; and on the 13th of October he was joined by the Captain, the Monmouth,

mouth, the Bedford, and the Grafton, of which captain Vernon still retained the command : so that his first squadron, with the reinforcements, composed a fleet of twenty five ships of the line.

Intelligence being received, that some Spanish ships were expected from the West-Indies, Sir George Walton was sent with a squadron to cruize off Cape St. Vincent ; while Sir Charles himself, who had gone to sea to observe the motions of the Spanish fleet, returned to Gibraltar on the 2d of November, after an absence of forty three days, as did Sir George Walton's division in a month afterward : and perhaps they would have continued there, had not the Rose ship of war come in on the 13th with a letter from the duke of Newcastle, importing that the Spanish galleons were on their way home.

On which the Torbay, Burford, Revenge, Orford, Prince Frederick, Canterbury, Weymouth, Preston, Pool, and Gibraltar were appointed to cruize off
Cape

Cape St. Vincent; the Monmouth, Stirling castle, Suffolk, Royal oak, Grafton, Kingston, Advice, and Swallow, off Cape Spartel; the Captain, Yarmouth, Bedford, Kent, York, Winchester, and Assistance, to cruise off Cape Finisterre: the two former were ordered back to Gibraltar, but the latter was appointed to proceed to Spithead.

About this time the emperor of Morocco received a letter from the king of England, as also a present of fifty barrels of powder, which the Poole carried to Tetuan. These made so good an impression upon the Moor, that he became a friend to the English ever after; which not a little contributed towards bringing about a reconciliation between Great Britain and Spain, to which the latter was so extremely averse, as to trump up new difficulties every day; alledging that the court of Great Britain had usurped the island of Providence, and built a fort on the coast of Florida, and forcibly seized

ed a settlement in the bay of Campeachy. Under this pretext they built several new men of war; took and confiscated several merchant vessels, after the time settled by the preliminaries.

The reconciliation being effected, Sir Charles Wager sailed from Gibraltar-bay on the 16th of March, and arrived at Spithead on the 9th of April.

In four days after, he and lord Torrington, with the earl of Portmore, waited on the king at St. James's, in his majesty's own closet, and met with a most gracious reception.

On the 28th captain Stewart arrived at Spithead with five more ships, having sent away the *Revenge*, the *Royal-oak*, the *Grafton* captain Vernon, the *Kingston*, and *Assistance* for Ireland, with directions as soon as they landed, to advance to Spithead.

No sooner had the seamen landed than they were received with the loudest acclamations by the grateful populace, who
of-

offered small presents to the common sailors as they passed along. Joy and satisfaction appeared in every countenance, and the officers of the navy, among whom was captain Vernon, received the thanks of the king.

Being come to England, he took his seat in the house of commons, which had met on the 23d of January 1728 : and as very warm debates had happened concerning the repeated advices of a continued series of depredations committed by the Spaniards and Sallee rovers on our trading vessels in the West-Indies, he always spoke on that side of the argument which was for executing immediate vengeance upon transgressors, before they were hardened in their cruelty, and were enriched by frequent plunder and barbarity. And though by the eloquence of Sir Robert Walpole, the master of the Rolls, Sir William Younge, and Henry Pelham esq; the vengeance due was deferred ; yet by the persuasive arguments of Mr. Pitt, the
pre-

prevailing reasoning of Mr. Pultney, afterward earl of Bath, and the honest declarations of captain Vernon and other sea officers, with the declarations of many who had suffered the most unheard-of cruelties, the house came to the following resolutions.

That from the peace of Utrecht 1713, to the 14th of March 1729, the British trade and navigation to and from the several colonies in America, had been greatly interrupted by the continual depredation of the Spaniards, who had seized very valuable effects, and unjustly taken and made prize of great numbers of British ships and vessels in those parts, to the great loss and damage of many of the subjects of the kingdom, and in manifest violation of the treaties subsisting between the two crowns.

On all which they presented an humble address to his majesty, that he would be graciously pleased to use his best endeavours to prevent such abuses for the future. They

They waited upon the king with the address, and received a most gracious answer. He ordered thirty three ships of war, twenty seven of which were of the line, to be equipped immediately. It rendezvoused at Spithead, and was there joined by a squadron of fourteen Dutch men of war.

The united squadrons were to have proceeded, without loss of time, to Jamaica, had not the honourable Morgan Vane esq; arrived express from Madrid, with the treaty of peace signed and concluded by that court.

On receiving the news, the Dutch admiral Somersdylke separated from the British squadron, the one sailing for Holland, and the other preparing to sail into port, in order to be laid up.

The impression made upon the court of Spain by so formidable a squadron, though no nearer them than Spithead, drew the pens of the ingenious. Several excellent epigrams were written upon
the

the subject, among which was the following :

What need the British fleet to leave the
 shore,
 Or make in distant climes her thunders
 roar,
 She's arm'd, she's join'd, prepar'd to
 plough the main ;
 Sure that's enough to humble haughty
 Spain.
 Thus when Jove's bird does but for flight
 prepare,
 Th'affrighted doves straight to their home
 repair *.

The court of Spain appeared willing to give the British nation instances of their justice, and to demonstrate that the depredations committed were nowise au-

* *E portu non est ut solvat classis ; Iberis
 Instructæ & junctæ fama futura sat est :
 Sic aquilam simul ac pennas extendere constat,
 Continuo imbellis tecta columba petit.*

thorized

thorised by them. A new governor was sent from Cadiz to St. Jago de Cuba, with orders to enquire into the abuses complained of: and as the former governor appeared to be the guilty person, so by a warrant from the other he was laid in irons; and a declaration was issued out, for the Spanish traders and merchants to live in the strictest amity with those of the British nation and colonies.

This proceeding of the governor raised a sort of joy in the breast of the fair trader; but indeed the same was short-liv'd, for the common people among the Spaniards continued their depredations in opposition to the most positive orders and instructions from their own court.

It may not be improper to observe, that the British navy at this time consisted of seven first rates, thirteen second rates, forty third rates, sixty four fourth rates, twenty six fifth rates, twenty nine sixth rates, three fire-ships, three bomb-
G
fels,

fels, one store-ship, thirteen sloops, seven yachts, eleven hoys, with smacks and other small craft, having all their full compliment both of men and of guns.

Such was the condition of the navy in the year 1730, and so great was the impression it made, that the king of Spain signed an act of approbation to be accepted of in lieu of his formal accession to the treaty of Vienna. In consequence of which a fine squadron of men of war was ordered to the Mediterranean to assist in procuring a settlement for Don Carlos in Italy.

On the 14th of July Sir Charles Wager sailed from Spithead, with a squadron of twenty four men of war. They arrived off Cape St. Vincent on the 30th, and on the 1st of August sailed into the bay of Cadiz.

From Port St. Mary he set out by land on the 5th, and next morning arrived at Seville; and the day after had an audience of the king and queen, by whom he

was

was most graciously received. He was accompanied by Mr. Keene the British ambassador, and attended by several gentlemen from on board the squadron, by all the British merchants and other gentlemen of that nation residing at Seville, was regaled and caressed by the whole court, and was visited by most of the grandees.

M. de Patinho and Mr. Keene followed him to Port St. Marys, and in company with the Spanish admiral the marquis de Mari, went on board the *Namur* and dined with him. A few days after Sir Charles returned the compliment, and dined on board the *Galicia*.

This being over, the combined fleet sailed on the 17th for Gibraltar, and by the way of Barcelona, they arrived at Leghorn on the 15th of September.

The two fleets made such an impression, that the duke of Tuscany received Spanish garrisons into Leghorn, Pisa, and other places of that duchy. And now

every thing being done that was intended, Sir Charles weighed anchor from Leghorn on the 26th of November, and arrived at St. Helens after a passage of fourteen days.

Tho' the assistance given by the British fleet in conducting the Spanish troops into Italy, brought the court of Spain into a good humour, yet it had but little weight with the masters of the guardacostas in the islands of Cuba, Hispaniola, and other places of the West-Indies. Complaints of their depredations were as frequent as ever.

Mr. Keene, by direction from the British ministry, gave in a memorial, complaining of them to the court of Madrid; and obtained a very peremptory order from his catholic majesty, charging his subjects to desist from such proceedings. Yet as those traders were excepted from the benefit of the schedule, who were concerned in any illicit commerce, (without determining what was to be deemed illicit, what not) a door was left open
for

for them to continue their plunderings, which brought on a war, wherein captain Vernon made so considerable a figure, and by which his name was founded through all the parts of the known world.

T H E
L I F E
O F

Admiral VERNON.

B O O K IV.

*The fleet sails from England ; the taking of
Porto-Bello ; the expedition to Cartha-
gena ; and the return of the fleet.*

THE court of London had, by the peace of Utrecht, obtained liberty to send an assiento ship annually to the West-Indies ; and the private men on board frequently carried over such things as were contraband. Complaints were frequently made, and the enemies of Britain, envious of her welfare, and of the tranquillity of Spain, did by

by every art blow the coal of dissention, which at last kindled into an open war between the two powers.

In every commercial state some people carry on illicit goods, to the prejudice of the fair trader. The kingdoms of Great-Britain and Spain are over-run with that false set of men, and the West-Indies are not exempted, for they are to be found in the Leeward islands, particularly in Cuba and Hispaniola.

The English merchants had liberty from the court of Madrid, to supply the Spanish colonies with Negroes, purchased in Guinea, and other parts of Africa. This Negro traffic, which forces the husband from the arms of his wife, the wife from the arms of her husband, and both from their parents and friends, cannot be expected to proceed with all due regard to justice; under different prettexts, this branch of trade, like others, was abused: they were to pay thirty-three piasters to the Spanish governor of the

G 4

place,

place, where they sold their slaves, for every one that was disposed of. This trade was of great advantage to the South-sea company, who by treaty were to furnish the colonies with four thousand eight hundred Negroes, had obtained the privilege of selling the eight hundred without any duty : but the greatest advantage reaped by the English, preferably to other nations, was the permission granted in 1716, of sending a ship annually to Porto-bello.

This vessel, which was to be of no more than five hundred tons, was, in 1717, by agreement, raised to eight hundred and fifty, though in reality, and by abuse, to a thousand, which could carry two millions weight of goods ; these were the least part of that commerce ; a pin-nace attended the vessel to carry provisions to it, and, according to some, was continually going backward and forward, took in loads of goods in the British colonies, and conveyed to the vessel,
which

which by this, thro' constant supply, answered the end of a whole fleet : besides, other vessels frequently carried goods to the company's ship, from whence they returned to America, with such commodities as the inhabitants wanted.

The Spanish governors treated the British traders with severity, not duly considering, that the encouragement given by smugglers among themselves, was the cause of what was complained of : the smugglers were so faithful to each other, as to agree upon signals, which they perfectly well knew ; sometimes the innocent and guilty suffered alike ; sums lawfully due to the former were detained, because of unlawful gain made by the latter : and thus the Spanish colonies were abused by the English, ruined by their own smugglers, and cheated out of their substance by the governors among themselves.

M. de Voltaire, treating of this subject, seems to deviate from his usual politeness :

“ A great many English,” says he, “ be-
“ came pirates with impunity ; on the
“ coast of Florida they met with some
“ Spaniards, who were fishing for some
“ galleons that had been shipwreck’d, and
“ of whom they had recovered four hun-
“ dred thousand piaftres : the English
“ killed part of the crew, and seized all the
“ money : the Spaniards demanded satis-
“ faction for these outrages of the English
“ governors in those quarters ; but the
“ English freebooters, when they took a
“ Spanish vessel, used to sink it, with all
“ the crew, after they had gutted it, that
“ there might remain no proof of their
“ villainy : at other times they sold those
“ Spaniards in their own colonies ; and
“ when these wretches demanded justice
“ of the English governor, those who
“ had sold them, got off, by pretending,
“ that from their swarthy complexion,
“ they had taken them for Negroes : the
“ pirates understood one another, and
“ divided the spoils with the judges,
“ and

“ and then said, that they had been tried
 “ by their peers.”

“ The Spanish guarda costas, (con-
 “ tinues he) revenged themselves fre-
 “ quently of these cruel hostilities; they
 “ took a great many vessels, and used the
 “ crews extremely ill.” They were un-
 der the hatches, and laid in irons, carried
 into the Havannah, and other parts,
 naked as they were born, and there con-
 fined to a dungeon, out of which hard-
 ships, by the humanity of the natives,
 they were partly relieved.

In the mean time negotiations were set
 on foot both at London and Madrid, for
 terminating the differences in America :
 by the convention of Pardo, of the 14th
 of January, 1739, the court of Spain, up-
 on balancing accompts with the South-
 sea company, engaged to pay them nine-
 ty thousand pounds in four months, re-
 serving to herself a power of making a
 deduction of what the company might be
 indebted to the Spaniards. This became

the subject of a fresh quarrel ; and the accounts of private merchants, produced a war, wherein both nations expended a thousand times more than the demand of either.

During these transactions, one Jenkins, the captain of a vessel which had been taken, presented himself before the house of commons, in 1739, with his nose split, and wanting his ears, that had been cut off: he appeared to be a plain open man, and asserted, that he had carried on no contraband trade, but was taken on the American coast by a Spanish guarda costa, whose commander seized his ship, laid the crew in irons, and had left him these mangling tokens. “ Gentlemen, (said he) “ after mangling me in this “ manner, they threatened to put me to “ death; I expected it, and recommended “ my soul to God, but the revenge of my “ cause to my country.” These words, pronounced with a natural emphasis, raised pity in the whole assembly; the
citizens

citizens of London crowded to see Jenkins, and loudly demanded a war.

The house of commons was greatly divided in their opinions. Sir Robert Walpole and his party were desirous to reconcile matters ; while the opposite party, by their harangues inflamed the minds of the people : among those who spoke upon the subject, was Mr. Vernon, and tho' he had not that flow of eloquence so necessary to distinguish one in the parliament of Great Britain ; yet the honesty and uprightness of his heart made up that want ; he knew the West-Indies extremely well, and shew'd to the house where Spain might be most sensibly affected ; it was the general opinion of the nation, that a war with Spain would be advantageous to Great Britain ; but now it is found, that such a war is most hurtful to trade and commerce in general, and to many rich and opulent cities in particular ; for the merchants keep up so close a correspondence, even in time of war, that the English have been
constantly

constantly interested in the Spanish trade, even while they were arming for the destruction of that monarchy, so that when their privateers took a prize, they really plundered their own countrymen.

Never was more eloquence displayed, than in the speeches made at that time in both houses of parliament, nay, I question, if the studied harangues pronounced at Athens and at Rome, upon almost similar occasions, are superior to the extemporaneous discourses of Sir William Wyndham, lord Carteret, Sir Robert Walpole, the earl of Chesterfield, the duke of Argyle, Mr. Pitt, Mr. Pultney, since earl of Bath, and Sir William Young. These discourses, equal to the elaborate panegyric of Isocrates, which he was fifteen years in composing, were but the natural effect of that liberty which the English nation has been hitherto careful to maintain. It is true, the spirit of party runs thro' them all, and the real state of things is generally disguised, for while the
mini-

ministerial party represent the government in a flourishing condition, the patriots affirm, that the nation is ruined and undone, “Where are those days,” (cried a member in the house) when a minister declared, that no power in Europe should fire a single cannon(without leave first obtained from England ? This happened in the reign of queen Elizabeth, and while Oliver Cromwell was protector.

At length, the voice of the nation prevailed, and a run of addresses at last determined the king; letters of reprisals were delivered out to merchants and to privateers, and war was declared against Spain.*

At first, the sea was the theatre of action between the two nations, in which the privateers on both sides began to seize the merchant-ships both in Europe and America, mutually destroying the very commerce for which they were fighting; and in a short time after proceeded to greater

* October 23, 1739.

hostili-

hostilities, both sides being intent to wreck that vengeance due only to a nest of smugglers upon each other: and now the torrent of war, which had been restrained within the fences of policy and consideration, covered Europe and America, the dispute between the courts of Britain and Madrid, was how they should most sensibly hurt one another.

The British ministry held a conference with the lords of the admiralty, to which the several captains, who had served in the navy, were invited. In this numerous meeting was Mr. Vernon, who began at this time to be taken more notice of than hitherto, and even to be regarded by Sir Robert Walpole himself.

Tho' that minister adopted the salutary maxim, that a kingdom in peace is in many degrees happier than when engaged in the most successful war; yet he now resolved to indulge the multitude, and let the nation have their way. He proposed what method was most likely to annoy
Spain

Spain in the most sensible part : some remembering the expedition to Vigo, proposed a second attack upon that place, and to burn the Spanish vessels in Cadiz, and the other ports of the kingdom : every one gave his opinion in the matter as seemed most feasible to him. Mr. Vernon, notwithstanding he had been neglected, merely through his opposition to the ministerial influence in the house of commons ; and that he had no prospect of gaining their favour, spoke with all the coolness and deliberation that an honest and upright heart could suggest : he told the assembly, that, “ though he look’d
 “ upon a war with Spain as hurtful to the
 “ nation in general, and to the trade of
 “ the city of London in particular, yea,
 “ to the mercantile part of the whole
 “ kingdom, yet now that they were to
 “ consider of the manner of affecting
 “ Spain in the most sensible part, he
 “ could not be so far wanting in his du-
 “ ty to his king, his country, and to his
 “ own

“own conscience, as not to speak the
“sentiments of his heart upon so impor-
“tant a subject,” “I, continued he, have
“had an opportunity of knowing Old
“Spain since the year 1702, and New
“Spain since the year 1711: happy had it
“been for the inhabitants of the former,
“that they had never been acquainted
“with the territory of the latter; for
“there be many mines in Old Spain un-
“touched, notwithstanding what is said
“of their being exhausted by the Romans
“and Carthagenians, by the Goths, and
“the Moors; trained up in this prepos-
“terous opinion, the Spaniards neglect im-
“proving their country at home, and
“seek for riches in the new world, they
“dig deep into the bowels of their new
“settlements in quest of riches; which
“last are their only support; destroy
“their settlements in America, and Spain
“falls of course; their priests, and nume-
“rous seminaries of monks and nuns,
“these trumpeters of a gloomy religion,
“will

“ will destroy what their own idleness,
 “ and want of industry, may casually
 “ have spared ; wherefore, my opinion is,
 “ that a strong squadron be sent into the
 “ West-Indies, to distress the enemy in
 “ their very vitals, to destroy their mines,
 “ to seize upon their treasures, to take their
 “ ships, and to ruin their settlements ;
 “ let them be attacked in as many places as
 “ possible at one and the same time, let us
 “ even extend our endeavours to the very
 “ Antipodes of Madrid ; for I know the
 “ Spaniards trade there.” He then gave a
 description of the Isthmus of Darien, of
 Portobello, and of Carthagena, the very
 center of the Spanish treasures ; and con-
 cluded with saying, “ that if once Porto-
 “ bello and Carthagena were taken, then
 “ all will be lost to them.”

This speech was received by the whole
 with repeated approbation, as it came
 from the mouth of a brave honest man,
 and no way embellished with these flowers
 of

140 The L I F E of
of rhetoric which carry persuasion, tho'
enforcing a bad cause.

The issue of the conference was laid before the king and privy-council, who saw soon into the extent and advantage of what Mr. Vernon had proposed, and a resolution was taken to employ him in the service.

This resolution was taken without his being any way privy to it; for he had neither applied by himself, nor yet had he employed his friends: a consciousness of his merit, determined Sir Robert Walpole, and a conviction of the truth of what he had said, prevailed on the lords of the admiralty.

He was at Chatham in bed with his lady when the courier arrived with the news, about two o'clock in the morning; and being apprised, that dispatches had come to him from London, of the last importance, he immediately arose, and judging that these might be from his brother, commissioner Vernon, a very
very

amiable and worthy gentleman, he asked hastily, “ what news from my brother, and what’s become of my son ?” an only child, who died about six years ago. “ I believe they are all well,” replied the courier, “ but I do not come from them, I come immediately from his majesty king George.”

On opening the packet, he found a commission declaring him vice-admiral of the blue, and commander in chief of a squadron of his majesty’s ships of war to be sent to the West-Indies, for annoying the Spaniards in their trade, and for destroying their settlements; and at the same time there was a letter requiring his immediate attendance upon the king at St. James’s.

On shewing the contents to his lady, she was as much surpris’d as her husband ; she advis’d him take his rest, and to consider of the matter till the morning. “ No, said the admiral, tho’ I love you tenderly, and would pay as much regard

“gard to your advice as you could ex-
 “pect from me, who admire your person,
 “and honour your virtues ; yet the fer-
 “vice and interest of my country must
 “prevail over every private considera-
 “tion ; and now, that his majesty has ho-
 “noured me with his commands, it is
 “just I should obey, without hesitation.”

The admiral was positively fixed in his
 resolution, and his lady became quickly
 resigned. He immediately ordered a post-
 chaise to be got ready, and arrived at St.
 James’s, without halting, about ten in the
 morning.

On the 19th of July 1739 admiral
 Vernon received his final instructions,
 under his majesty’s sign manual, “To
 “destroy the Spanish settlements in the
 “West-Indies, and to distress their ship-
 “ping by every method whatever.”

He only desired three or four days to
 settle his domestic business, while the ships
 were getting ready to sail under his com-
 mand : and these were the following men
 of war.

The

The Burford, on board of which the admiral hoisted his flag, captain Watson, who has been the only successful sea-officer during the war of 1756; she mounted 70 guns, and contained 500 men.

Lenox, 70 guns and 480 men, captain Colvil Mayne.

Elizabeth, 70 guns and 480 men, captain Edward Effingham.

Kent, 70 guns and 480 men, captain Thomas Durell.

Worcester, 60 guns and 400 men, captain Perry Mayne.

Stafford, 60 guns and 400 men, captain Thomas Trevor.

Princess Louisa, 60 guns and 420 men, captain Thomas Waterhouse.

Norwich, 50 guns and 300 men, captain Richard Herbert.

Pearl, 40 guns and 240 men, honourable Henry Legge.

This formidable fleet of ships weighed anchor the 23d of July from Portsmouth, and in two days arrived in Porland road, where

where they were detained by contrary winds till the 1st of August: in which interval of time admiral Vernon spared no pains to reconcile the raw men, of which there was a great number on board, to the sea-service, wherein they were engaged. He daily exercised the sailors and the marines, and sometimes ordered sham-fights, in which all the variety that occurs from the time of firing the first gun, till boarding the ship, were gone through.

By this and the like methods, he beheld with concern the state of the marines, two thirds of whom had never seen an engagement, and many of them had never fired a gun during the course of their lives.

Touch'd with the situation of his country, and moved with compassion for the men, he wrote a letter to the duke of Newcastle, then one of the principal secretaries of state; and in a very moving
and

and nervous manner did he represent the affair, at the same time proposing a remedy.

“ I could wish,” continued he, “ we
 “ had each of us a company of foot of
 “ regular troops sent on board each ship,
 “ which would have strengthened us in
 “ numbers, as well as had their expertness
 “ in handling their arms, to have incited
 “ our men to the imitation of them.

“ If we should come into a general war
 “ with France as well as Spain, I believe
 “ your grace will have clearly perceived,
 “ from the difficulty of manning these
 “ ships as they are, the necessity there
 “ may be for having most of our march-
 “ ing regiments converted into marines ;
 “ and if they become seamen, they were
 “ admitted to be discharged for such :
 “ that would make a good nursery for
 “ breeding them at a time we might pro-
 “ bably find such a necessity for them.

“ As I have always lookt upon our
 “ fleet, as what must not only protect
 “ our trade, but secure us the blessing of

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“ a

“ a protestant succession ; your grace will
 “ excuse the overflowing of a sincere,
 “ though it may be an imprudent zeal,
 “ being convinced in my own judgment,
 “ that preserving a superiority at sea, is
 “ the best security for his majesty’s go-
 “ vernment, as well as of the trade and
 “ prosperity of this kingdom.”

This letter, the effect of the utmost
 sincerity, and most mature deliberation,
 was laid before the privy council ; and
 was honoured not only with their appro-
 bation, but even with that of the king
 himself who recommended that a proper
 regard should be had to the admiral’s
 proposals.

On the 2d of August, the day he wrote
 the above letter, he arrived in Cavefon-
 bay, off Plymouth, where he was becalm-
 ed for about fourteen hours, during which
 time he repaired a small damage, and
 next morning steered for the coast of Ga-
 licia.

On

On the 6th day from their setting sail, captain Perry Mayne of the Worcester made the high land of Cape-Ortugal, E. of the Groine; where he was informed that the Ferrol Squadron had sailed on the 21st of July for Cadiz, and that the Azogues ships had not yet arrived. All which was faithfully communicated to the duke of Newcastle, in a letter dated August 15th, the admiral also informed his grace, that having stationed the Lenox, the Elizabeth, and Kent, for thirty days, to wait the arrival of the Azogues, and sent the Pearl to her station between Lisbon and Oporto, for three months, he was preparing to sail for Madeira to water, and hoped to meet the Azogues ships at the Canaries, and from thence to steer with all expedition to the West-Indies; concluding with an intreaty, to be reinforced with ships sufficient to face any Squadron the ministry might hear to be sent against him.

“ the censure, if I am too weak for the
 “ work assigned me.”

On the morning of the 30th of August the squadron sailed for Antigua, off which island they arrived on the 29th of September.

For some days the ships beat about the islands to procure intelligence, to find out the stationed ships, and to take a skilful pilot on board to conduct them to the Caraccas : but being disappointed in every branch of his expectation, the admiral hastened to bear away in quest of the galleons ; and hearing that three Spanish ships were taking in goods on the Caraccas coast, he sent an equal number to surprise them ; so that all being settled, he proceeded to Port-Royal in Jamaica, where he arrived on the 12th of October.

His first care was to notify his arrival to governor Trelawney, both to desire his excellency's assistance in the work for which the squadron had been sent into

those parts, and to assure him of his own zeal to execute the same. The former part the governor complied with, and the latter he was ready to believe.

At Port-Royal intelligence was received, that neither the Ferrol fleet, nor any of the galleons were ready to sail for Europe; that no fair had yet been opened at Porto-Bello; and that no ship or vessel would sail till after Christmas.

This entirely altered the admiral's thoughts: an attack upon Carthagena or Porto-Bello became the immediate object of his next proceedings. The only question was, how to attain success: for procuring which he sent a sloop with a flag of truce, and an offer to exchange for the South-sea agent and factors, Don Pedro Ellistagaritta, the Spanish admiral's captain, who had been surprised and brought off from Carthagena, on the 10th of September, by captain Stapylton, and others. By these means he hoped to have certain advice of the Spanish force in those parts, though

though he did not expect any compliance with the exchange proposed.

While this sloop was gone, it was discovered by some letters taken in a Spanish prize, “ That four English ships, under
 “ commodore Brown, had attacked and
 “ battered down a fort which the Spani-
 “ ards were building between Matterfes
 “ and the Havannah ; and that thereupon
 “ they had embargoed all the English
 “ factory, and an English brigantine be-
 “ longing to the assiento company, that
 “ lay down at the Moon-castle ready to
 “ have sailed, and sent directions to do
 “ the same at St. Jago.”

On the 28th commodore Brown returned to Port-Royal harbour from a cruize ; and the admiral having obtained a full state of the Spanish shipping and of their stations, and judging that they had agreed to join at Carthagena, in their way to Porto-bello, to open the great fair, the money having been brought from Panama some time before, he resolved to sail im-

mediately, and if possible to reach Portobello before the arrival of the Spanish galleons, determining to destroy the fortifications, and to nail up the cannon; or if the galleons had arrived, to attack these in the harbour.

For this purpose he got together the best pilots, among whom was William Smye captain of a sloop of fourteen carriage guns and ten swivels, a man of great experience, who had annually disturbed the navigation of the Spaniards upon the coast of Panama, and carried off a considerable booty from thence.

As this expedition was reckoned of the utmost importance, so every method was tried to render it successful. An embargo was laid upon all shipping for three days, to prevent intelligence being carried to the enemy. Governor Trelawney sent him as many soldiers as he could spare, under captain Newton, an officer of courage and experience. Of all which steps the admiral gave a circumstantial account
to

to the duke of Newcastle, in a letter dated October 31. “ I hope, says he, from the
 “ success of this expedition, to convince
 “ our royal master, however I may have
 “ been misrepresented to him formerly,
 “ that no man in Britain has a sincerer
 “ inclination to serve his majesty faith-
 “ fully and resolutely.”

This letter coming to hand upon the 15th of December, could not fail of giving entire satisfaction, especially as war had been declared against Spain on the 23d of October before : and what tended to encrease the satisfaction, was that Spain had received two sensible strokes about this time ; one of which from captain Knowles, who took a Spanish ship wherein were seventy four thousand pieces of eight, and cloathing for the whole garrison of St. Augustine ; the other wound was from admiral Haddock, who on the 23d of September took the St. Joseph, a rich Spanish ship bound from the Caraccas, of eight hundred tons and seventy

seven men; and on the 3d of October another rich prize of two hundred and eighty tons from the same place, with many other ships of lesser value.

These advantages were no way inconsiderable, but more than all these was expected from admiral Vernon; who sensible of the utility that might redound to the enemy from a delay on his part, prepared to set out as soon as possible on the intended expedition: at the same time he ordered a convoy for the trade to England, and stationed a ship to cruize to the windward for protecting the trade from that quarter.

Every thing being settled, and the signals communicated to the captains, he on the 3d of November ordered commodore Brown to wear his distinguishing pendant on board the Hampton-court, and to be ready to proceed to sea with the other ships on the 5th in the morning; at which time he sailed from the harbour with a squadron of six men of war, of which the
Hamp-

Hampton-court of 70 guns and 495 men, commanded by commodore Brown and captain Dent, was to lead with the star-board, and the Princess Louisa with the larboard tacks a-board, and the commodore was to repeat the signals. The other ships were the Norwich, Worcester, Burford, and Strafford. With these he proceeded towards Porto-bello, where he had appointed the rendezvous, having left orders for the Diamond, Windsor, and Anglesea, to compleat their provisions for ten weeks, and follow him.

The squadron being at sea, the admiral on the 7th delivered his orders to commodore Brown and the other captains, appointing the following dispositions for the attack.

“ That upon making the land of Porto-
 “ bello, and having a fair wind to favour
 “ them, and day-light for the attempt,
 “ to have their ships clear in all respects
 “ for immediate service, and on the pro-
 “ per signal to form themselves into the

H 6.

“ line:

“ line of battle above directed, and being
“ formed to follow the same order of
“ battle to the manner hereafter directed.
“ And as the north shore of the harbour
“ of Porto-bello has been represented to
“ the admiral to be a bold steep shore, on
“ which at the first entrance stood the castle
“ de Ferro, or Iron-castle ; commodore
“ Brown and the ships that followed,
“ were directed to pass the said fort within
“ less than a cable’s length, for giving
“ the Spaniards the warmer fire both
“ from the musquetry as well as their
“ cannon : and then commodore Brown
“ was to steer for the Gloria-castle, and
“ anchor as near as he could to the easter-
“ most part of it, for battering down the
“ defence of it, so as to leave room for
“ captain Mayne in the Worcester, to an-
“ chor astern of him against the westermost
“ bastion of it, to do the same there ; who
“ was to follow such further orders as the
“ commodore should give him for at-
“ tacking the said castle : and captain
Herbert

“ Herbert in the Norwich, after giving
 “ his fire to the Iron-castle as he passed
 “ by it, was to make directly up to the
 “ castle of St. Jeronimo, lying to the
 “ eastward of the town, and anchoring
 “ as near as he could to it, to batter it
 “ down : and captain Trevor in the Straf-
 “ ford following the admiral, was to
 “ come to an anchor against the Castle
 “ de Ferro, and far enough to the east-
 “ ward to leave room for captain Water-
 “ house in the Princess Louisa to anchor
 “ astern of him, for battering the wester-
 “ most part ; being to continue on that
 “ service to make themselves masters of
 “ it : and the youngest officers to follow
 “ the further orders of the elder in the
 “ prosecution of the attack : and if the
 “ weather was favourable for it, on their
 “ going in, each ship was directed, be-
 “ sides having his long-boat towing a-
 “ stern, to have his barge alongside to
 “ tow the long-boats away with such part
 “ of the soldiers as could conveniently go
 in

“ in them directly on board the admiral,
 “ for his directing a descent with them
 “ where he should find it would most
 “ favour the several attacks.”

And the admiral represented to the several captains, “ That from the mens
 “ inexperience in service, it was necessary
 “ to take more precaution to prevent
 “ hurry and confusion, and a fruitless
 “ waste of powder and shot; directing
 “ them all to give the strictest orders to
 “ the respective officers, that were to command the several batteries, to take care
 “ that no gun was fired but what they,
 “ or those they particularly appointed,
 “ saw first levelled and directed the firing
 “ of: and that they should strictly prohibit all their men from hollowing,
 “ and making such-like irregular noise,
 “ that would only serve to throw themselves into confusion, till such time as
 “ the service was fully performed, and
 “ they had nothing left to do but to glory
 “ in their victory, which such confusion
 “ might

“ might often prevent, and otherwise
 “ prove fatal to them. And those that
 “ had the cohorn mortars on board, were
 “ directed to make use of them against
 “ the respective forts they were appointed
 “ to batter and destroy.”

About the same time captain Stapleton
 in the Sheerness was ordered for Cartha-
 gena, “ To look in on the back of the
 “ town, and see whether the galleons were
 “ still in that harbour, and carefully to
 “ observe their motions; and if he found
 “ them already at, or in a disposition for
 “ coming to sea, or that any men of war
 “ were to come to join them, then to
 “ make the best of his way for Porto-bello,
 “ to give the earliest advice of it he could,
 “ to prevent the admiral’s being sur-
 “ prised.”

Proper signals were appointed instead
 of hailing, as the last-mentioned practice
 has frequently been attended with bad
 consequences on an enemy’s coast, espe-
 cially in the night time.

It

It was the evening of the 20th of November before the squadron could have a sight of Porto-bello; where, in a few hours, a scene of horror and bloodshed was to be opened, and of which place it will not be improper here to give a description.

The town of Porto-bello is situated on the north side of the famous isthmus of Darien, which running in a manner from east to west between the North and South-seas, joins the two vast continents of North and South-America. It is about eighteen leagues from Panama, which lies on the south side of the isthmus. It has a commodious bay about a mile deep, affording good anchorage and shelter for ships, and near half a mile broad at the mouth of the harbour. At the entrance of the north side of the bay, on the side of a steep rock, stood a strong castle called the Iron-castle, mounting seventy eight great guns, with a battery beneath parallel with the water, which mounted twenty two guns: the castle and fort garrisoned
by

by three hundred men. On the opposite side the bay, but near a mile farther up on the ascent, stood the Castle-gloria, consisting of two regular bastions to the sea mounting ninety guns, with a curtain between them mounting twenty two guns, besides a line of eight guns that pointed to the mouth of the harbour, the whole defended by four hundred men : a little above this castle, near the other end of the town, on a point that ran into the bay, stood Fort St. Jeronimo, being a kind of quadrangular redoubt, strongly built, well planted with cannon, and properly defended. Under the cannon of Gloria Castle and Fort St. Jeronimo, all the ships belonging to the harbour rode at anchor ; and this defence, together with the guns on the Iron Castle, rendered the entrance of the harbour very difficult, and extremely dangerous. At the bottom of the harbour lies the town, bending along the shore like a half-moon : it is long and narrow, having two principal

pal streets besides those that go across, with a small parade about the middle of it, surrounded with fair houses. It consists of about five hundred houses, two churches, a treasury, a custom-house, and an exchange. The east-side is low and swampy, and the sea at lower-water leaves the shore within the harbour bare a great way from the houses, which having blackish filthy mud stinks very much, and breeds noisome vapours through the heat of the climate, it lying in the tenth degree of north latitude; for this reason it is but thinly peopled, except at the time of the fair, which alone gives great reputation to the place, as being the market through which all the wealth of Peru, and the manufactures of Europe, annually circulate. This place was taken by the Buccaneers in 1688, but was soon reformed in a much stronger manner, had been long esteemed impregnable, and was formerly told could not be taken by a large squadron, and at least eight thousand men, when

when the British ships and sailors lay rotting at the Bastimentos.

The British squadron being off this harbour, and the wind failing, the admiral, lest he should be drawn to the east of thereof, made the signal for coming to anchor at the distance of six leagues off the shore. In the morning the fleet plied to windward in line of battle, but the wind proving easterly, the attack was confined to the iron fort only, close to which captain Renton piloted the squadron.

Commodore Brown, in the Hampton-court, led the attack, and in about twenty-five minutes fired no less than four hundred shot. He was so well seconded by captain Herbert in the Norwich, and captain Mayne in the Worcester, that some of the Spanish officers and soldiers soon fled from the fort, which the admiral observing, he made the signal for the boats, in which were about forty sailors, a company of marines and three officers, to hasten

hasten their landing, while he was coming up to the fort, in order to batter it ; while luffing up to the fort as near as possible, he was welcomed by a volley, every shot of which almost took place ; one struck away the stern of his barge, another broke a large gun on his upper deck, a third went thro' the foretop-mast, a fourth passing thro' the awnings, within two inches of the main-mast, beat down the barricado of the quarter deck, very near the admiral, killed three men, and wounded five others.

No way discouraged at this, the British seamen on board the admiral's ship, returned the salute both with their cannon and small arms, which last drove the Spaniards from their lower batteries, and killed two of their principal engineers ; the landing from the boats was now free from danger : as these came near the admiral's ship, he called to them to go directly on those under the walls of their fort in the front of their lower batteries, tho' there
was

was no breach made: his orders were obeyed, they all landed safe, except two soldiers, who were killed each by a ball from the castle: never was more eagerness shewn than on this occasion: in scaling the fort walls, one man set himself close under an embrasure, whilst another climbed upon his shoulders, and entered under the mouth of a great gun: this raised in the enemy so general a consternation, that both officers and men, who had stood to the lower battery, threw down their arms and fled to the upper part of the fort, where they held out a white flag as a signal of capitulation: the admiral answered by another, but it was some time before he could stop his own men, or those on board the *Strafford* from firing.

In the mean time, the seamen had climbed up the walls of the lower battery, struck the colours, and drawn the soldiers up after them: on which the Spaniards, who had fled to the upper apartments, soon surrendered at discretion: their

their number consisted of three officers and thirty-five private men, out of three hundred, who, except all these, were either killed, wounded, or had made their escape: they at first shut themselves up in a strong lodgment, but on the English firing a gun through the door, they soon opened, and begged for quarter, which was given them.

By this time the ships that went in before the admiral, were fallen to leeward, so as to be out of sight of Gloria Castle, but the admiral's ship lying open to it; they kept firing one of their largest guns at him all night, tho' with little damage, for not being within Point Blank, their shot either did not reach, or else went over him; only one shot went thro' his foretop-mast, just above the rigging, but but did no other harm; he tried some of his lower tier, which being new brass guns, answered beyond expectation; every shot carried over the Gloria Castle into the town, one of them went thro' the governor's

Admiral V E R N O N. [167

vernor's house, some thro' other houses, and one sunk a sloop under Gloria Castle.

This successful beginning was attended only with the loss of three men killed, and five wounded on board the Worcester; and one sailor had both his legs shot off on board the Hampton-court, two soldiers were wounded in landing, one of whom died in four hours after.

The next morning, being the twenty-second, the admiral went on board commodore Brown, to hold a consultation with the captains, and to give out the necessary orders for warping the ships up the next night, in order to attack Gloria Castle the night following, as it would not be practicable to attempt it in the day-time: but the consultation was prevented by the enemy's putting up a white flag at the Gloria Castle, and sending a boat with a flag of truce, and with it a lieutenant of a man of war, and the governor's adjutant, bearing the conditions on which they desired to capitulate; which were,
“ That

“ That the government would deliver up
 “ all the fortifications, provided they
 “ might be allowed to march out with
 “ the honours of war, have an indem-
 “ nity for themselves, the town, and the
 “ inhabitants, and be permitted to enjoy
 “ all the ships in the harbour.” This
 last could by no means be granted, as the
 admiral resolved to have all the ships, be-
 ing those who had done the English mer-
 chants the injuries complain’d of: accord-
 ingly he drew up the forms on which he
 would capitulate, and dispatched them
 back, allowing them only five hours to
 consider of them; but within the time
 limited they sent a messenger with a letter
 signed by Don Francisco Martines de Re-
 tez, governor of Porto-bello, and Don
 Francisco de Abarea, commander of the
 Guarda Costas there, accepting the terms,
 which were prepared and executed on the
 same day, and are as follow :

By the 1st, “ The garrison were allow-
 “ ed to march out as desired, upon condi-
 “ tion

“ tion the king of Great Britain’s troops
“ were put into possession of Gloria Castle
“ before four of the clock that evening,
“ and the garrison to march out by the
“ next morning.

“ The inhabitants might either remove
“ or remain, under a promise of security
“ for themselves and their effects.

2d, “ That the Spanish soldiers might
“ have a guard if they thought it ne-
“ cessary.

3d, “ That they might carry off two
“ cannons mounted, with ten charges of
“ powder for each, and their match light-
“ ed.

4th, “ That the gates of Gloria Castle
“ should absolutely be in possession of the
“ British troops by four of the clock ;
“ and the Spanish garrison should remain
“ in all safety for their persons and ef-
“ fects, till the appointed time for their
“ marching out, and to carry with them
“ the provisions and ammunition neces-
“ sary for their safety.

5th, “ That the ships, with their apparel and arms, should be absolutely delivered up to the use of his Britannic majesty ; but that all the officers, both soldiers and crew, should have three days allowed them to retire with their personal effects ; only one officer being admitted on board each ship and vessel, to take possession for his Britannic majesty, and see the articles strictly complied with.

6th, “ That provided the articles were strictly complied with, and that possession was given of the castle of St. Jeronimo, in the same manner as stipulated for the Castle Gloria ; then the clergy, the churches, and town should be protected and preserved in all their immunities and properties.

“ And that all prisoners already taken, should be set at liberty before their leaving the port.”

Before night captain Newton, with a detachment of about one hundred and

twenty soldiers took possession of Gloria Castle and St. Jeronimo fort, being the remaining fortresses that guarded the harbour, in which were two Spanish men of war of 20 guns each, and a snow, but at this time they were almost abandoned; their crews seeing the bold and regular attack on the iron fort, and despairing of being capable to defend themselves, they plundered the town in the night of the 21st, and committed great outrages on the unfortunate inhabitants, as did the Spanish garrison, from a persuasion of their own incapacity to stand a storm from so daring and resolute an enemy.

Things succeeding so well, the admiral took on board his ships, from the several fortresses, forty pieces of brass cannon, ten brass field pieces, four brass mortars, and eighteen brass patteraroes, knocked off the the trunnions of above eighty iron cannon, and spiked them up. He also took on board all their shot and ammunition, except 122 barrels of powder,

which he expended in springing mines, by which all the fortifications of the town were blown up, and the harbour left open and defenceless.

Ten thousand dollars that were arrived and designed for paying the Spanish troops at Portobello, falling into the admiral's hands, he distributed them among the forces for their encouragement.

On the 23d the admiral ordered all the captains “ Not to send any of the boats
 “ ashore without an officer, for whose conduct they would be responsible; and as
 “ security from plundering persons and
 “ effects was granted by the capitulation,
 “ they were strictly to prohibit its being
 “ put in practice in any sort; and to assure
 “ whoever attempted it, they should
 “ not only be punished for the infraction
 “ of the capitulation, but be deprived of
 “ their share of the several captures that
 “ were secured for a reward of their gallant
 “ discharge of their duty.” And for intercepting any thing that might be coming
 into,

into, or going out of the harbour without permission, the admiral gave orders “ for
 “ a lieutenant, with a barge well manned
 “ and armed, to be on duty on board the
 “ westernmost ship every night, to keep
 “ guard there the whole night, rowing
 “ every now-and-then cross the harbour;
 “ also a sufficient guard to be nightly
 “ mounted every watch to prevent sur-
 “ prizes.” The admiral, tender of the
 national honour of his country, and knew
 well how necessary it was for a lenient and
 mild use of his conquest, to cultivate a
 good opinion of the British faith and inte-
 grity, among the Spaniards, thereby to
 promote private trade on the coast, and
 to eradicate those abominable notions of
 English heretics, villains, and cruel spoil-
 ers, instilled among the inhabitants by the
 craft and subtilty of the jesuits. For this
 purpose he dispersed the strictest orders
 among the squadron, “ punctually and
 “ religiously, inviolably to preserve to the
 “ Spaniards, the conditions of their capi-

“ tulation, and the other humane concessions granted to them since, as agreeable to the inclinations of his royal master, and the nature of an Englishman.”

On the 27th captain Knowles arrived in the Diamond, and in two days after, the Windsor, captain Berkley, and the Anglesea, captain Reddish, came in.

On the 6th of December captain Stapylton returned from his cruize off Carthagen, having taken two vessels going to that place with stores and provisions.

During the admiral's stay at Portobello, he sent a letter to the president of Panama, demanding the releasement of the factors and servants of the South-sea company who were confined at that place, as also of their own personal and the company's effects, threatening to proceed to shew a just resentment in case of a refusal. The governor answered in a trifling manner, which irritated the admiral so much, that he sent him another, couched in the strongest terms, and concluding thus :

thus: “Health and prosperity to all true
 “Spaniards, who may lament sacrificing
 “the true interest of their country to the
 “ambition of an Italian queen.” This
 produced not only a very angry reply,
 but even provoked the governor to re-
 fuse the admiral’s demands, with respect
 to the effects, but not with regard to the
 other, for the president of Panama sent
 an officer with Mr. Humphrys and Dr.
 Wright, factors, and also with the ser-
 vants of the South-sea company, who
 were delivered to the admiral.

The conquest of Portobello, in which
 the conduct, the courage and humanity
 of Mr. Vernon shone so brightly, was at-
 tended with many national advantages,
 as the Jamaica merchants, whose trade
 extends to every part of the British settle-
 ments throughout the world, were at full
 liberty to trade with the Spaniards free
 and unmolested.

The conquest of Carthagena next ingrossed the care of the admiral, and could he have attempted it immediately, he might have destroyed the galleons, which were at that time in great want both of naval stores and provisions ; besides, the month of December is the fittest time for an expedition into that unwholesome climate, as we shall see hereafter.

THE

T H E
L I F E
O F

Admiral V E R N O N.

B O O K V.

The admiral returns to Jamaica, sends an account of his success to England; the honours conferred upon him there.

ON the thirteenth of December admiral Vernon, with his squadron, sailed from Portobello, and having reason to apprehend from the intelligence brought by captain Reddish, that the Ferrol squadron might be near the Windward passage leading from Jamaica, he on the 15th gave the follow-

ing orders to all the captains, “ Not
“ on any consideration to hazard losing
“ company with the flag; and that in case
“ of separation, the first place of general
“ rendezvous for twenty-four hours would
“ be under Point a Canoe; but not seeing
“ any thing of the admiral in that time,
“ they were to make the best of their way
“ for the next general place of rendez-
“ vous at Port-royal.” Being off Car-
thagena, on the 28th, he sent captain
Renton in the Triumph, a Spanish snow,
with a circumstantial account of all that
he had done, both to the duke of New-
castle, and to Sir Charles Wager, pro-
mising to lose no time in preparing for
an expedition against Carthagena, tho’
he was informed, that a force of men
of war in that harbour, was equal to
what he should be able to carry with
him, and besides a hundred and fifty
guns upon the walls and works, a garri-
son of eight hundred soldiers, and a nu-
merous militia. He tells the duke, “ that
“ he

“ he was then making his last effort in his
 “ present situation; for that without a full
 “ and speedy supply of naval stores, his
 “ squadron would be all laid up by the
 “ walls, and rendered unactive.— For,
 “ he adds, unless his majesty’s orders fur-
 “ nish the means, and ships be sent out
 “ well found with stores, and constantly
 “ supplied, the zeal of the most diligent
 “ and able officer may be rendered intire-
 “ ly fruitless.” He informs his grace of
 a letter from Don Blas, in answer to two
 the admiral had sent him; which letters,
 says Mr. Vernon, “ will be best answered
 “ from the mouth of our mortars, which
 “ may instruct him where to find me, if
 “ he continues in his heroic disposition.”

——— [He charged the English admiral
 with cowardice for dismantling Porto-
 bello, and threatens him with retaliation
 wherever he shall meet him.]—In his let-
 ter to Sir Charles, the admiral is still
 more explicit: “ though, says he, I have
 “ all the information I could well gather

“ from others, in regard to the strength
“ of Carthageria, and the best plans I could
“ procure of the Havanna and La Vera
“ Cruz, yet not having viewed them my-
“ self, I cannot inform you particularly,
“ what I shall or can attempt, as they may
“ depend upon various incidents ; but
“ can assure you, I shall set out fully dis-
“ posed to do all in my power, and in
“ some measure with the impatience, you
“ mention in others, to have the Spa-
“ niards blown up ; and shall have a secret
“ pleasure in humbling their pride, and
“ amply retaliating all the injuries and
“ depredations they have been so long
“ practising against us.” — He then pro-
poses a scheme for the better manning of
the fleet, by following the example of the
Dutch, &c. who procure foreign seamen
for their service, by lifting them at Ham-
borough and the Hans-towns, upon con-
ditions for a time certain ; and remon-
strates against the new model of the king’s
ships, which gives them too much mast
and

and sails.—“ For, says he, I think, when
 “ going upon a wind, you press a ship so
 “ down in the water, as to bring an un-
 “ natural body for her to draw through
 “ the water; it cannot be expected she
 “ should force that body so quick thro’
 “ the water, as if she went in a more up-
 “ right and natural situation; and that
 “ therefore, in respect to going upon a
 “ wind, it is better a ship should be under-
 “ masted than over; and as to going large,
 “ and in light winds, I apprehend a great
 “ cloud of canvas would be better sup-
 “ plied in very large small sails, than by
 “ very square yards to be spreading a large
 “ clue of heavy canvas, whose very weight,
 “ in light winds, forces the wind out of the
 “ sail, &c. I think also that it would be
 “ a great preservative to masts and rig-
 “ ging, to have the low yards fixed with
 “ flying parrels, because this would pre-
 “ serve the rigging from being racked to
 “ pieces by tracing the yards, and give
 “ opportunity for striking a top-mast with
 “ the

“ the low fails standing, and contribute
“ to a ship’s sailing by not being too much
“ bound.” And in his letter to the admiralty, he attributes the disasters met with from the stormy weather in his way from Portobello, to his being over-masted, being sent to sea with their old guard-ship rigging overhead. He charges the officers of the yards ordered to load stores for the ships on service, with sending to him, &c. old lumber out of the yards; next observing the inconveniency of an hospital for sailors in a town abounding with punch-houses, to which places the sick crawl as often as able to get out, and thereby destroy themselves, he proposes a model for an hospital to be built of wood, after the manner of the canes at Smyrna, a large square building to be erected in the country, with only one outside door, and that door to be so guarded, that no one could pass without due examination.

But while captain Renton was hastening to England, the squadron proceeded
to

to Port-Royal ; where, notwithstanding the ships were dispersed in a storm, and suffered much in their masts and rigging, they joined a few days after.

From the moment of his arrival at Jamaica, he set about every kind of preparation for attempting the conquest of Cartagena, which to effect, he sailed from Port-Royal, on the 25th of February, with the Princess Louisa, the Windsor, Norwich, Falmouth and Greenwich men of war ; the Success, Cumberland, Eleanor, Alderney, Terrible, Brig, Pompey, and Goadley frigates, with fireships, bombs and tenders : the Hampton-court, Worcester, Diamond and Torrington, were left at Jamaica with commodore Brown, for protecting the island and shipping.

By means of a fair wind, he, on the first of March, arrived within view of the highland of St. Martha on the Spanish main, and ordered captain Wyndham in the Greenwich, “ to plie up in the night, and
 “ lie to windward of the port, for intercepting

“ cepting any thing that might be coming
“ in there the next day,” and then bore
away with an easy sail for Carthagená.
On the third in the evening, he anchored
with the squadron in nine fathom water in
the open Bay called Playa Grande; and
on the sixth ordered in all the bomb-
ketches, with the small ships and tenders
for covering them, and continued to bom-
bard the outworks till nine in the morn-
ing. The squadron received no damage
from the town, tho’ the shells from the
ships fell there pretty successfully, parti-
cularly into the principal church, the Je-
suits College and the Custom-house; se-
veral houses interjacent between these
were beat down, and a shell that fell
into the south Bastion, silenced a battery
of ten guns for a long time: the inhabi-
tants were in a consternation; and had the
squadron been a little stronger, perhaps
the opportunity had been improved, but
the cautious admiral, considering that his
force was inconsiderable, contented him-
self

self with “having done enough,” (to use his own words, in his letter to the duke of Newcastle) “to awaken Don Blas de Lefo, and to let him know that I was not stealing upon him by surprise.”

After settling with the captains the place of rendezvous, which was to be either in the harbour of Porto-bello, or off the mouth of the river Chagre, in the bay to the eastward of it, he on the 9th drew off his bomb-ketches and small craft, and weighed anchor next morning.

After hoisting the signal for the line of battle, he coasted the shore toward Bocca Chica, and at this time made proper observations for regulating any future descent upon Carthagena. The Spaniards fired at the fleet from the three small castles without Bocca Chica, but none of their shot reached the British ships.

About this time, receiving intelligence that the Vizara and St. Juan, two Spanish men of war, and a snow had orders from Don Blas to hasten to Carthagena, the
ad-

admiral detached captain Berkley in the Windsor, and the Greenwich captain Wyndham, “ To cruize off that port for
“ twenty days, to intercept, take, or de-
“ stroy the said men of war, but prin-
“ cipally to watch the motions of the
“ galleons.”

On the 13th he was joined at sea by the Diamond, captain Knowles, who was ordered directly “ To go on board the
“ Success fire-ship, and in company with
“ the brig tender to get off the mouth of
“ the Chagre, and there use the best of
“ his judgment in getting all proper in-
“ formation, how the fort at the mouth
“ of that river could be attacked, either
“ by bombardment or cannonading, and
“ particularly to inform himself of the
“ soundings and depth of water there-
“ abouts; to be certain how near any of
“ the ships could approach; and to ob-
“ serve what convenient landing places
“ might be near; and return to the ad-
“ miral as soon as he conveniently could,
“ who

“ who would be making an easy sail after
 “ him, - to lie off the said river, till he
 “ should receive his information to form
 “ the future plan of operations upon.”

On the 14th the squadron anchored in
 the harbour of Porto-bello, whence, in
 four days after, the admiral detached the
 Success and Eleanor, “ To cruise off the
 “ mouth of the Chagre for seven days,
 “ or till the squadron should sooner ap-
 “ pear off there, for preventing the Spa-
 “ nish privateer sloops from putting to
 “ sea from thence, or intercepting any
 “ thing that might be coming or going
 “ there.

The admiral, during his stay at Porto-
 bello, procured the best information, and
 an exact draught of all the coast from
 Porto-bello to Chagre, and of the mouth
 of the river and shoal before it, from
 Mr. Lowther the pirate, who took this
 opportunity to obtain his pardon, and re-
 turn to England, in consideration of this
 service.

On

On the 22d he put to sea with the Strafford and Norwich, leaving orders with the Louisa and Falmouth “ to hasten
“ in compleating their watering, and follow him :” but being retarded by the splitting of the foretop-sail yard of the Strafford, he ordered captain Herbert in the Norwich “ To make all the sail he could,
“ and enter the harbour of Chagre before
“ him, with the bomb-ketches, fire-ships,
“ and tenders under his orders ; and captain Knowles as engineer, on board
“ the bomb-ketches, for placing them to
“ play on the castle of St. Lorenzo, at
“ the mouth of the river Chagre ; and to
“ cover them with his own ship and the
“ rest.”

The same day captain Knowles got to an anchor by three in the afternoon, and in the evening began to fire from his cannon and mortars. By ten at night the admiral in the Strafford got to an anchor, as did the Falmouth and Princess Louisa about an hour after. They continued bom-

bombarding and cannonading with three ships, firing leisurely only from their lower tier till Monday the 24th, when the Spaniards hung out a flag of truce, which was answered from the admiral, and captain Knowles was sent on shore ; he soon returned with Don Juan Carlos Gutierrez de Ranettas, castellanor or governor of the fort, to whom the following capitulation was granted :

1st, “ That upon his Britannick majesty’s being put into immediate possession of Fort St. Lorenzo, the castellanor and all his garrison should be at liberty to march out without any molestation, and retire into the village of Chagre, or where else they pleased.

2d, “ That the inhabitants of Chagre might remain in their habitations, under a promise of security to themselves and their houses.

3d, “ That the guarda costa sloops should be delivered up to his Britannick
“ ma-

“ majesty in the condition they were, and
 “ the king of Spain’s custom-house.

4th, “ That the clergy and churches
 “ in the town of Chagre should be pro-
 “ tected and preserved in all their im-
 “ munities.”

This being settled, the governor was sent back with captain Knowles, who being appointed governor of the castle for his Britannick majesty, took possession of it about three in the afternoon with a garrison of one hundred and twenty men and five lieutenants.

That evening a guard was placed upon the custom-house, on the opposite side of the Chagre, and at day-break next morning the admiral went on shore: he found the custom-house full of goods, for the lading of the galleons; such as guayaquil, cocoa, jesuits bark, and Spanish wool; all which he ordered to be shipped instantly. The number of serons and bags amounted to four thousand three hundred: the guarda costa sloops, being only
 two,

two, were sunk just above the custom-house, carpenters being ordered to break up their decks, and entirely destroy them.

By Friday the 28th they cleared the custom-house; which being filled with combustibles, was set on fire that evening, and burnt with great fierceness all that night.

Next morning the brass cannon, consisting of eleven guns and eleven patteraroës, with a good part of the garrison, were embarked; the lower bastion was entirely destroyed by the springing of two mines; next, the upper parts of the work were demolished; and that very night the inner parts of the building were set on fire, and continued burning till the morning, when the admiral put to sea with the squadron; and on the 1st of April, in the evening, got to the mouth of the harbour of Porto-bello, where he was joined by the Windsor and Greenwich, just arrived from their cruise off Carthage; and on the 2d by the Burford, which

which he had left at Jamaica to be repaired.

On the 5th Mr. Joshua Thomas, purser of the *Strafford*, was dispatched for England, with an account of the success of the expedition, in the little Spanish prize sloop that had been taken in Porto-bello harbour.

On advice that two large Spanish men of war from Ferrol, with the vice-roy on board, was arrived at St. John de Porto Rico, the admiral being off the Little Baru, and imagining the vice roy might fall in with the Port of St. Martha, which was within his government, before he proceeded to Carthagená, he on the 21st ordered the *Windsor*, *Greenwich* and *Burford*, under the direction of captain Berkley, “To cruize just to wind-ward of St. Martha, for intercepting the vice-roy,” who escaped their vigilance, for the men of war safely arrived at Carthagená with six hundred soldiers de-

designed for reinforcing the garrison of Porto-bello.

In the mean time admiral Vernon returned with the rest of the squadron to Jamaica, where he arrived on the 3d of May at Port-royal, and on the 9th wrote a letter to the duke of Newcastle, in which he complains of having no authentic account of the declaration of war against Spain sent him.

What pity was it, that the English had not been better supplied with land forces? two thousand of which would have enabled him, instead of demolishing the fortifications of Porto-bello and Chagre, not only to keep possession of both, but even to master Panama itself; by which means he would have laid the whole coast of Chili, Peru, and the western coast of Mexico open both to the trade and attacks of the British subjects; and by being thus possessed of the isthmus of Darien, and receiving proper reinforcements, there would have been a great probability of

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even

even seizing the mines of Peru, and disabling Spain from ever attempting any thing against the commerce of Great Britain for the future.

The account of admiral Vernon's success arriving in England, created a general joy ; Fame like an eagle carried the news upon her wings ; a run of addresses, like the waves of the sea jostling out one another, crowded about the throne, congratulating the king on the success of his arms under so great a commander ; and his majesty, ever ready to distinguish merit, and reward it amply, left every thing for the future to the admiral's own prudence and discretion ; which resolution he commanded the duke of Newcastle to intimate, and to signify an intire approbation of every part of his conduct, and in a particular manner, to thank him for the humanity with which he treated the inhabitants of Portobello.

On the 18th of March, both houses of parliament presented an address, “ Con-
“ gratulating

“ gratulating him on the success of admiral
 “ Vernon by entering the port and
 “ taking the town of Portobello, and de-
 “ molishing and levelling all the Forts
 “ and Castles belonging thereto, with six
 “ ships of war only ; and representing that
 “ it could not fail of giving the utmost
 “ joy to all his majesty’s subjects, since
 “ it afforded the most reasonable hopes
 “ and expectations, that it might be at-
 “ tended with other important advan-
 “ tages, and highly contribute to the ob-
 “ taining real and effectual security of
 “ those just rights of navigation and com-
 “ merce belonging to his majesty’s sub-
 “ jects, for the preservation of which his
 “ majesty entered into that necessary
 “ war.” The thanks of both houses was
 transmitted to the admiral.

The city of London presented likewise
 an address to his majesty, congratulating
 him on the glorious success of admiral
 Vernon.

The parliament voted, “that the thanks
“ of both houses should be transmitted to
“ the admiral for his eminent services;”
and the citizens of London, as a mark of
distinction, voted him the freedom of the
city to be presented in a gold box.

The name of Vernon raised satisfacti-
on in every breast, and diffused a general
joy, which was a little allay’d by the escape
of the *Assogue* ships, under convoy of ad-
miral Pizarro, who eluded the vigilance
of vice-admiral Balchen; for by the way
of the *Lizard*, he arrived with an immense
treasure safe at St. Andero in the bay of
Biscay; nine Spanish men of war and two
frigates, likewise escaped out of Cadiz to
Ferrol, and joined another fleet there in-
tended for the West-Indies.

This last escape was, like others, the
effect of stratagem; for by making a feint
to recover the island of Minorca, they
drew off admiral Haddock from the mouth
of the port of Cadiz, where he had block-
ed up their fleet.

Being

Being got into Ferrol, they proposed an invasion either of England, Scotland, or Ireland, to be conducted by the duke of Ormond, then an exile, intirely supported by the court of Madrid; but that nobleman refused to assist in any such acts of hostility: he knew the calamities of war, and his generous heart could not think of being the least accessory to carry it into the midst of his native country.

Though the united squadron, at Ferrol gave some uneasiness to the ministry and people of Great Britain, yet, for want of supplies of treasure from New Spain, they were detained, until the French thought it adviseable to pull off the mask, and to join, by sending a strong squadron under the marquis de Antin to Martinico, one of their settlements in the West-Indies, with secret orders, not only to act in a hostile manner against the British subjects, either jointly with the Spaniards, or separately by themselves, but even to concert measures with them for attacking Jamaica,

at the same time declaring, that France could no longer remain an idle spectator of the losses which Spain sustained in America.

The king of Great Britain remonstrated against this armament by his ambassador, to whom cardinal Fleury used this expression : “ My lord, there is a difference
“ between arming, and declaring war ;
“ it is true, the king, my master, has
“ promised a neutrality, but as unfore-
“ seen accidents may happen, it is pru-
“ dence to be prepared against all events.”

The nation, now apprehensive of a war with France, began to utter great discontent at not having more effectually strengthened admiral Vernon ; to smother which, a very potent fleet of twenty-one sail of the line, and three fireships were ordered on a secret expedition, from whence very great things were expected : Sir John Norris, admiral of the red hoisted his flag on board the unfortunate Victory of 110 guns, having under him Philip Cavendish admiral,
and

and Sir Chaloner Ogle, rear-admiral of the blue; many of the first quality went on board the Victory, and the duke of Cumberland embarked as a volunteer. As the destination of the fleet was a secret, so it raised the more conjectures, which were all found to be false in the end, for the fleet after being detained for a week at St. Helen's by contrary winds, sailed from thence on the 14th of July, with the convoy and merchant ships for Portugal and the Streights; but meeting with hard gales of wind at S. W. the Lion man of war lost her foremast by running foul of the Victory, whose bowsprit she carried away; the whole returned to St. Helen's, and on the twenty-second sailed again, but were detained at Torbay for near a month; and on the 18th of September returned to Spithead, where his royal highness disembarked, and where ended an expedition that had been begun and carried on at so great expence, and that had engrossed the conversation almost of

all Europe. However, the parliament meeting Novrmber 13, the king declared his resolution of prosecuting vigorously the war with Spain, even though France should declare in her favour, as some late extraordinary proceedings had shewed her inclination to do; forty thousand seamen were voted by the house of commons, as were ten regiments of foot and marines, for the service of the ensuing year, with a land-tax of four shillings in the pound; and to encourage the seamen and officers to their duty, the prizes were solely vested in the captors; and in December a further supply of two hundred thousand pound was granted to his majesty towards carrying on a secret expedition of which captain Anson, now lord Anson, was to have the command, the object of which was no less than a voyage round the earth, which he accomplished in the Centurion, in three years and an half.

Had the ministry supported Mr. Vernon at the time when commodore Anson
was

was traversing the back coast of Peru, the court of Spain, who knew nothing of the danger, would perhaps have felt such a sensible loss by the conquest of the Isthmus, which joins North and South America, as could never have been regained.

However, the ministry, tho' too late, were prevailed on, and resolved to send the admiral a reinforcement of six regiments of marines, the regiments of Harrison and Wentworth, and some other regiments under the command of lord Cathcart, a general of great experience, and who was in high esteem with the victorious duke of Marlborough, under whom he had learnt the art of war, and practised it for several years; at the same time a regiment of Americans, consisting of four battalions was raised, and the command of it given to colonel Gooch, who succeeded colonel Spoitswood, governor of Virginia, who first proposed the plan for raising them.

The fleet destined for succouring admiral Vernon, who was obliged to fortify himself in Kingston harbour, against the force and machinations of France and Spain, assembled at Portsmouth, under the command of Sir Chaloner Ogle, and were as follows :

Torbay, 80 guns, captain Gascoine, having lord Cathcart on board.

Cumberland, 80 guns, captain Steuart.

Boyne, 80 guns, commodore Lestock.

Princess Amelia, 80 guns, commodore Hemmington.

Chichester, 80 guns, captain Robert Trevor.

Norfolk, 80 guns, captain Graves.

Shrewsbury, 80 guns, captain Townshend.

Princess Caroline, 80 guns, captain Griffin.

Suffolk, 70 guns, captain Davies.

Buckingham, 70 guns, captain Mitchel.

Orford, 70 guns, lord Augustus Fitzroy.

Prince Frederic, 70 guns, lord Aubrey Beauclerc.

Prince of Orange, 70 guns, captain Osborn.

Lion,

Lion, 60 guns, captain Cotteril.
 Weymouth, 60 guns, captain Knowles.
 Superbe, 60 guns, captain Hervey.
 Montague, 60 guns, captain Chalmers.
 Deptford, 60 guns, captain Mostyne.
 Jersey, 60 guns, captain Lawrence.
 Augusta, 60 guns, captain Dennison.
 Dunkirk, 60 guns, captain Cooper.
 Rippon, 60 guns, captain Jolliffe.
 York, 60 guns, captain Coates.
 Litchfield, 50 guns, captain Cleaveland.
 Ætna, Firebrand, Phaeton, Vesuvius,
 Flame and Vulcan fireships, two bomb-
 ketches, and hospital ships, with store-
 ships, &c.

On sunday the 26th of October, 1740,
 this formidable fleet sailed from Spithead,
 and after a very tedious passage, arising
 from storms and contrary winds, arrived
 at St. Dominica, on the 19th of Decem-
 ber, where lord Cathcart died, on the next
 day after landing: his lordship's death
 was universally regretted, especially as he
 was succeeded in command by brigadier

K 6. general

general Wentworth, an officer whose preferment took its rise solely from a parliamentary interest.

It was the 9th of January before the fleet joined admiral Vernon, whose inquietude for the fate of Jamaica was now intirely relieved, he was free from all apprehensions of any attack from the united squadrons of Brest, Toulon, and Ferrol, all which had sailed to the West-Indies, both to secure the galleons, in which they were so much concerned, and to check the progress of the British arms: during their passage, four sail of men of war were descried between Hispaniola and Jamaica; six men of war were immediately sent after them; the six overtook the four off Cape Tiberon before it was dark; lord Aubrey Beauclerc, who commanded in the Prince Frederic, hailed them, but they refused either to send an officer on board the English, to satisfy them who they were, or to lie by, for the English officers sending on board of them: as the certainty could

could not be otherwise known, a gun was fired to bring them to, on which an engagement ensued, which lasted till morning, when the French hoisted their colours, and boats were sent to clear up the point who they were, in which the English officers being satisfied, reciprocal civilities passed between them, and each continued their respective courses.

No sooner had Sir Chaloner's squadron arrived at Jamaica, than a council of war was appointed to consider of what was to be done; their first meeting was in the governor's house in Spanish-town, where it was resolved, that the whole fleet should beat up to windward, to observe the motions of the French squadron, commanded by the Marquis d'Antin, at Port Louis.

As the fleet was now thirty sail of the line, the admiral formed a third division, over which he appointed captain Lestock, a brave old seaman, to be commodore.

The Channel being so dangerous in going out from Port-Royal harbour, the
admiral

admiral ordered out only one division in a day, forwarding those who were to go first.

On the 22d of January, Sir Chaloner Ogle got out with his division of ten sail of the line, and on the 24th commodore Brown sailed with his division of nine; and on the 26th the admiral, who had remained for giving necessary orders, sailed with his division of eleven men of war: but the winds growing faint that day, he anchored safely with them in the channel; only the *Augusta*, of the admiral's division, fell so far to leeward, as upon anchoring to veer upon a shoal astern of her, where she beat off her rudder, and being rendered leaky by thumping hard, she was ordered into the harbour to refit. The next day produced but little alteration, but on the 28th, he got clear to sea, and joined the two first divisions, on the 30th off the *Yellows*: the division under Sir Chaloner Ogle consisted of the *Princess Amelia*, who was to lead with the starboard, and

and the Suffolk with the larboard tacks, on board, the Windsor, York, Norfolk, and Russel, where was Sir Chaloner himself, Shrewsbury, Ripon, Litchfield, Jersey and Tilbury, with the frigates, Experiment, Sheerness, Vesuvius, Terrible bomb, Phaeton and Goodley: the center division was that under the admiral, and consisted of the Orford, Princess Louisa, Worcester, Chichester, Princess Caroline, on board of which was the admiral, the Torbay, Strafford, Weymouth, Deptford and Burford, with the frigates Squirrel, Shoreham, Eleanor, Seahorse, Strumbolo, Success, Vulcan, Cumberland, Alderney bomb, Pompey and brig Tender. Commodore Lestock's division was in the rear, and was composed of the Defiance, Dunkirk, Lion, Prince Frederic, Boyne, Hampton-court, Falmouth, Montague, and Suffolk.

This fleet, which, with the transports, made 115 sail, got off Cape Tiberon, with a windward current on the 8th of February ;

ry ; and the same day was joined by the Wolf sloop, captain Dandridge, who informed the admiral, that he look'd into the harbour of Port Louis, where he had seen nineteen sail of large ships, one having a flag at the maintop-mast-head, and another a broad pendant flying: but in this he was mistaken ; for the haziness of the weather had made him mistake the merchant ships for men of war, and the maintop-mast-head of a frigate of forty guns being in a line with a white gable end of a house, occasioned the mistake about the flag : the admiral on this, made a signal for general and flag officers to come on board, and to these he communicated the intelligence he had received : whereupon, it was resolved to steer directly to the isle of Vache, about six miles west of Port Louis, to observe the motions of the French, and to procure intelligence of their force and intentions.

In prosecution of this design, the fleet steered for Vache, where, on the twelfth, the most of the ships arrived.

On the 15th the admiral sent his compliments to the governor of Port Louis, desiring leave to wood and water, as the fleet had been forced by strong breezes into the bay; the request was granted in the politest manner, and the fleet was supplied accordingly.

At this place it was resolved to proceed directly to Carthagená, being encouraged by the departure of the marquis d'Antin's squadron for old France, a few days before.

On the 25th the fleet, consisting of 124 sail, sailed to Carthagená, and on the 4th of March anchored in Playa Grande, to the windward of the town; of which it will not be improper to give a short description.

The city of Carthagená lies in lat. $10^{\circ} 26'$ min. It stands on the Spanish continent, to the east of the gulph of Darien, almost
directly

directly south of Jamaica, and 330 miles N.E. of Panama; by the navigation of the great rivers of Santa Martha, and Magdalena, such vast quantities of rich merchandize were brought down near it, as soon enlarged the town: it was sacked by a few English under Sir Francis Drake, in the year 1588, about 53 years from its foundation: it was soon repaired, and like a Phoenix rising out of the ashes, became more considerable, till a Spanish pyrate conducted in five privateers, who seized the immense treasures, and burnt the place to ashes; it recovered this last blow: people flocked to it from every quarter: and its riches increased so much, that in 1697, M. de Ponti found in it a booty of nine millions sterling. It recovered this blow also, and at the time admiral Vernon appeared, it was the principal and best fortified city in America, the place where the galleons touch at when outward bound, and the general station of the Spanish men of war in those parts: tho'

tho' the walls of the town be washed by the sea, yet it is inaccessible on that side, as the water is shoaling near three miles off, and the harbour is bounded by rocks. The only entrance is between two narrow peninsulas, Tierra Bomba, and Barradera. The passage of Bocca-chica, or the little Mouth, on Tierra Bomba, was defended by a castle called St. Louis, which was a square, whose bastions were strong, well built, and mounted eighty-two guns and three mortars, but neither the Glacis nor Counterscarp were finish'd; to Bocca-chica were added the fort of St. Philip, mounted with seven guns, the fort St. Jago mounting fifteen, and the battery de Gamba of four guns, all serving as redoubts to Bocca-chica. On the other side of the harbour's mouth was a fascine battery of fifteen guns called Barradera, supported by another of four guns; fort St. Joseph of twenty-one guns stood on a flat island facing the mouth of the harbour. From this fort to Bocca-chica, a boom

boom and cables were fixed across, fastened with three large anchors at each end; and just within the boom, four men of war were moored in a line, the Galicia of 80 guns, on board which was the Spanish admiral, the Africa and St. Carlos, each of 66 guns, and the St. Philip of 70. These spread so far, that there was not room for a ship to pass ahead or astern of them: beyond this passage lies the great lake or harbour of Carthagena, several leagues in circumference, and landlocked on all sides. About midway to the town it grows narrower, and within about a league of the city, two points of land jutting out, form the lesser harbour; near the northermost of those was the strong square fortress of Castillo Grande, about eight miles up the harbour; the bastions of this fort were strong and well built, mounted 50 guns, and on the land side was defended by a wet ditch and glacis, and one of it faces toward the sea, had a raveline and double line of guns before.

fore it : opposite to this castle was a horse-shoe battery of 12 guns, called Mancinella. In the middle between these two forts, is a shoal, with scarce three foot water in it, and in each of these were ships sunk across; near three miles farther up the harbour, stands Carthagera, with Himani, its suburbs, on two flat sandy islands; both city and suburbs form irregular figures, and are fortified on the land side, with strong bastions, mounting 160 guns, at proper distances, with lakes and morasses running round them; the city is defended by 160, and the suburbs by 140 guns, and the shoalness of the water is such, that ships cannot come so near as to do any material execution; about a quarter of a mile south of the city, stands an eminence, which is a square whose side is 50 feet, with three demibastions, two guns in each face, one in each flank, and three in each curtain; the place in itself is trifling, but its situation makes it considerable, as it overlooks the city, in the same manner as

Madre

Madre de Popa, at four hundred yards distance, overlooks it.

To reduce Carthagena, it was necessary to begin with the forts ; and as no pains were spared for strengthening these, the admiral begun with a stratagem ; he ordered the small frigates and fire-ships to lie in a line along the shore, as if he intended a descent to windward of the town, which feint had so good an effect, as to draw the force of the enemy to that quarter, and set them at work to intrench. In consequence of a resolution taken in a council of war, with the four officers of the army, and the same number of the navy, Sir Chaloner Ogle having shifted his flag on board the Jersey, and being accompanied with general Wentworth, moved forward with his division for executing the attack against the forts and batteries of Tierra-bomba. Admiral Vernon moved after him with his division and all the transports, leaving commodore Lestock with his division at anchor behind ; he
likewise

likewise embarked all the grenadiers on shore in the fireships, as if he proposed landing there that morning, but ordered them to follow him in time, to be ready for landing that evening to leeward: the small fort of Chambo fired a few guns, but was deserted as soon as the ship posted there could take her station and begin to fire. At noon the Norfolk, Ruffel, and Shrewsbury being judiciously anchored very close under the forts of St. Jago and St. Philip, made so warm a fire, that in less than an hour they drove every Spaniard out of them. Covered by the fire of these ships, lieutenant-colonel Cockraine landed with five hundred grenadiers, under the walls of these forts, took possession of them, without having so much as a single shot fired at them. General Wentworth, with brigadier Guise and colonel Wolf attended the landing of the grenadiers, but the brigade did not come down till next day, being prevented by the strong breezes. This success

was

was obtained by the loss only of six men killed and wounded, on board the Ruffel and Norfolk ; the Shrewsbury lying fouthermost, had her cable cut by the Spanish shot, and falling to leeward, before she could let down another anchor, drove toward the mouth of the harbour, where she lay exposed to the whole fire of two fascine batteries on the Barradera side ; the forts of Bocca-chica, and St. Joseph fired incessantly, as did four men of war of 70 and 60 guns, that were moored athwart the mouth of the harbour ; about one hundred and sixty guns fired at her ; captain Townshend, who commanded her, returned the fire from twenty-six guns only, and with an intrepidity and coolness sufficient to ennoble any hero, he maintained a fight for seven hours, when night putting a stop to the Spanish fire, the Shrewsbury had orders to retire ; she had twenty men killed and forty wounded, sixteen shot between wind and water, two hundred and fifty shot in her hull,

ments, standing exposed to the violent heat of the sun, on a white burning sand, and catching cold by the inclemency of the night dews, many of them sickned. The camp was pitched on a low sand, which was sheltered from the Barradera battery by the rock that fort St. Philip stood on: but lying on the line of direction of the shot fired from thence by the Spaniards at the bomb-battery, it was often galled in flank, and the engineers being both ignorant and dilatory, nothing material was transacted: this occasioned complaints from the admiral, who being intent upon executing his instructions, sent officers to reconnoitre the fascine battery on the Barradera side from whence the camp was annoyed. In consequence of their report, about one in the morning of the eighteenth, all the boats of the squadron were manned and armed, with all the barges and pinnaces of the fleet, to surprise the Barradera battery. The boats of each division were put under

the command of captain Watfon, with the captains Colby and Norris under him; the failors, when landed, were to be directed by captain Boscawen, having under him captains Laws and Coates, and the foldiers were under the direction of captain Washington and captain Murray; but the wind beginning to blow hard, and continuing all day, the execution of the design was retarded till the nineteenth about midnight, when it was executed with wonderful resolution and fuccess: at their landing, they fortunately pitched ashore under the muzzle of five guns, which began immediately to fire upon them; the failors were at first surprised, but soon recovering, they rushed in at the embrasures, took possession of the battery before the enemy could renew their fire, and secured the cannon with very inconsiderable damage to themselves. This firing alarmed the Spaniards at the larger battery; they turned three pieces of cannon on the platform, fired with grape-shot so

soon as the seamen advanced, which flying over their heads, did but little prejudice: the sailors instantly rushed on with great boldness, and after a sharp, but short resistance, carried it, spiked up all the guns, tore up the platforms, and burnt them, together with the carriages, guard-houses, and magazines, and returned to their ships with six wounded prisoners; for this extraordinary service, in which not one was killed, the admiral gave a dollar to every private man.

This success gave great relief to the troops, as it freed their camp from the greatest annoyance, and gave them an opportunity of working quietly on their grand battery, which was constructed in a wood, to prevent its being discovered by the garrison: the engineers were assisted by five hundred seamen, two hundred and fifty blacks, and as many pioneers as could be spared from the army: yet all these could not complete the batteries at the time appointed.

On the twentieth, at day-break, the garrison of Bocca-chica castle began to fire warmly at the Bomb-battery, tho' without much success; and the Barradera-battery being repaired by the Spaniards, and mounted with two guns, play'd on the Bomb-battery; but was soon silenced by the Rippon, which anchored near enough to bear upon it.

The openness of the road, and the foul ground that was daily cutting the cables of the ships, with intelligence by intercepted letters, that admiral de Torres was arrived at the Havannah, where he was to be joined by the French squadron commanded by M. de Rochefort, determined the admiral, on the twenty-first, to make a general attack upon all the forts and batteries, as soon as the wind would permit the ships to move to their proper stations.

On the twenty-third commodore Lestock in the Boyne, with the Prince Frederick, Hampton-court, Suffolk and Til-

bury went in to batter Bocca-chica castle, and the ships posted there, which were the Galicia, San Carlos, Africa, and St. Philip, all mounting upwards of sixty guns, and placed in the most advantageous situation, both for opposing any attempt upon the harbour, and for annoying any batteries that might be raised on shore; on all which they play'd furiously, doing much more damage than the castle: the Boyne was shattered miserably, and fell to leeward, but the others continued; the Princess Amelia of Sir Chaloner Ogle's division, was sent to support her; which tho' she did not, by falling too far to leeward, yet she did more essential service, than at first was apprehended, for the shot from the facine battery, which play'd upon the castle, went over the hill into the camp, now ceased, for fear that the fire should fall into the Princess Amelia: the whole of the fire was directed against the Prince Frederic, then under the brave lord Aubrey Beauclerc, son to the duke of St.

Alban's,

Alban's, both whose legs were shot off, as he was giving his commands upon deck ; but such was his magnanimity, that he would not suffer his wounds to be dressed, till he had communicated his orders to his first lieutenant ; which were, “ to fight the ship to the last extremity :” soon after he gave some directions about his private affairs, and resigned his soul, with the dignity of a hero and a christian.

In the mean time, the Suffolk and Tilbury, happening to anchor well to the northward, lay successfully battering against the breach till evening, when every thing appearing fit for an assault, they were ordered to draw off. At this instant the army began to look upon the breach as accessible, but the general complaining they were galled by the Barradera battery, where the Spaniards had again mounted six guns, the admiral directed the Princess Amelia, Litchfield and Shoreham, to go in and anchor as nigh it as possible ; and about noon, sent

the boats of the fleet again, manned and armed to demolish the fascine battery. Captain Watson was to command the men when put on shore, and captains Broderick and Cleland, those who remained in the boats : the business was effected ; for so soon as the Spaniards saw the boats coming to land, and the ships anchoring close to the battery, they deserted it ; while the captains Watson and Cotes marched in, spiked the guns, and intirely destroyed it : the seamen afterward drew some of their boats over a neck of land, boarded and burnt a sloop that lay there to supply the battery with ammunition.

The greatest part of the guns in Bocca-chica castle being dismounted, general Wentworth went in the night of the twenty-fifth, to reconnoitre the breach, and judging it surmountable, he resolved to storm it next evening, an hour before sun-set. He came off in the morning, and intimated his design to Mr. Vernon, who immediately sent in his boats again, to

to make a favourable diversion under the command of captain Knowles, who landing at the facine battery, drew up his men before the forces could march up to attack the castle. This step intimidated the enemy; about half an hour after five, general Wentworth moved forward to assault the breach with the troops; the forlorn hope consisted of a serjeant and twelve grenadiers, who were followed by thirty volunteers: next marched two hundred and sixty grenadiers, the whole then remaining under lieutenant-colonel M'Lead, after this, colonel Daniel marched at the head of a detachment of five hundred men, having under his direction some small parties carrying scaling ladders, pick-axes and spades to be in readiness in case of necessity: the whole was sustained by five hundred men, under the command of lieutenant-colonel Cockrane; and brigadier (now lord) Blakeney, had the direction of the artillery; upon a signal, which was the firing three bombs from the

mortar battery, the great gun battery poured a volley into the breach, a second of grape-shot followed, which obliging the centinels upon the walls to put themselves under cover, probably occasioned their not having perceived the troops, when they first began to move forward; but before they reached the foot of the walls, the drums in the fort beat to arms, the top of the breach was manned by the Spaniards; their ships, and fort St. Joseph began to fire upon the assailants, tho' with no other effect, but killing one man: Don Blas being on board the Galicia, the garrison fell into confusion, and fled precipitately out of the gates; as soon as the grenadiers began to mount the breach, the consternation among the ships and forts was great, the Africa and St. Carlos were sunk, the St. Philip was set on fire, and continued burning some hours, till it burst by a violent explosion, the Galicia was abandon'd by her crew, who left the captain, a captain of marines, and

and sixty men aboard, who all fell into the hands of the English, under the command of captains Knowles and Watson. The Spanish admiral's flag and colours were secured, the boats stormed St. Joseph's fort, and took it with but little resistance, finding none upon entering it, except one man in liquor, who was to have blown it up.* After leaving some officers and men on board the Galicia, the boats went to work on cutting the boom, and moving the Galicia out of the channel.

Next day, after taking the castle, the admiral hastened into the harbour, and in three hours warped through between the sunk ships: that night he advanced two leagues up the harbour, as did the Burford and Orford, who were next day post-

* The British troops from the time of their encampment, to the taking of Bocca-chica castle, lost about four hundred men by sickness, and the fire of the enemy; among those killed in the camp, was colonel Douglass, colonel Watson of the train, lieutenant-colonel Sandford, and captain Moor, the chief engineer.

ed across it, for cutting off the Spaniards from all communication by water. That afternoon the Worcester, by getting in close to a wharf, secured a spring of fresh water, which was of signal service to the troops, and the Weymouth and Cruizer sloop destroyed two small batteries; which done, the Cruizer went up the creek of Passo Cavallo, and brought away four large Sina hulks, being vessels dug out of a hollow tree, big enough to carry twenty tons, which were very serviceable in watering the fleet. In the meantime the transports were warping in, but were greatly retarded by blowing weather, so that choaking up the mouth of the harbour, the men of war were prevented from making the desired dispatch: however, they all got in on the thirtieth, when the fireships and frigates were so disposed round the harbour, as to guard every pass and creek, and to cut off all supplies from the town.

Don

Don Blas, in the mean time, was not idle on his part ; he ordered Mancinilla fort to be destroyed, the large channel that lies between it and Castillo grande to be choaked up, by seven galleons, and other ships, and by the Conquestador and Dragon men of war ; all of which were sunk on each side a shoal that lay in the midst of it ; and the better to defend the city, the houses were untiled.

On the thirtieth Sir Chaloner Ogle's division turned up the harbour, and anchored near Castillo grande, where one part of the Spaniards made a shew to receive them, while another was removing the effects from Castillo grande.

On the morning of the first of April, admiral Vernon got to an anchor close to Castillo grande, set some of his ships at work to heave the masts out of the Spanish ships, to make a channel over those sunk in the deepest water, that the bomb ketches might run in, batter the town, and secure a safe descent for the
land

land forces : toward evening the whole was effected, two bomb ketches and two frigates got in, and commodore Lestock, with the land forces he had re-embarked, after destroying the out-works, followed ; by ten the next morning the bomb ketches began to play upon the town, and in the evening, another channel having been made through the wrecks to the eastward of the shoal, three fireships got through it, and being posted to cover the descent of the land forces at Texar de Gracias, they kept a continual fire upon the enemy, and prevented their casting up intrenchments. Things succeeded so well, that about one hundred Spaniards were driven from a breast-work at the upper end of the harbour, and the country between that and St. Lazar was scoured, by an incessant fire, which continued all night : by these means a safe descent was secured for the army, whose officers had resolved in a council of war, “ to land the troops next “ morning at break of day, and to possess “ the

“ the port of la Quinta, for cutting off
 “ the communication of the city with the
 “ country, for covering the landing of
 “ the artillery, and to clear ground for
 “ the encampment.”

About two in the morning of the fifth, the first division of fourteen hundred men under brigadier Blakeney, were received by the boats of the fleet, from on board the transports, and from thence went and rendezvoused along-side the Weymouth : at five colonel Grant moved toward the shore, with the grenadiers, landed without opposition, at a place about two miles from Lazar, and being soon followed by the rest of the troops, the whole was formed in order of battle for marching against the enemy, who were now in the wildest confusion, and were flying on every quarter from the fire of the ships, which swept them off in lanes.

General Wentworth advanced at the head of the forces through a long narrow defile, where some few of his men were
 hurt

hurt by single shot from the paths and opening into the wood, where the enemy had made a lodgment, but were soon put to flight: about a mile further, in coming out of the defile, near six hundred Spaniards were perceived to be advantageously posted, and seemed resolute to dispute the passage: the ground over which the troops were to march did not admit of much more than one large platoon in front, the Lagoon lying upon their left, and a thick copse on their right, into which the general ordered a party of American soldiers to fall upon the rear of such of the enemy as might be lodged there, to flank them in their march: the grenadiers advanced with but little loss, though they received two fires from the enemy: the front platoon fired at the distance of half musket shot, and immediately wheeled to make room for the rest: at this the Spaniards raised a loud huzza, judging that the whole body had given way, but finding their mistake, by the fire of the platoons, they

they fled in disorder toward the city ; on which a convenient place for encamping was marked out a mile short of Lazar ; and in the evening a party possessed themselves of La Popa, whence the generals reconnoitred the town, which, now was the time to have stormed ; for the Spaniards had not finished the works they were carrying on from the hill, neither had they finished their entrenchment, a general pannick having possessed them ; but the golden opportunity was lost, as no stores were landed from the ordnance ships ; however, next morning, these were carried on shore, and the remainder of the eight regiments were landed, but the troops were obliged to lie three nights upon their arms for want of tents, having no proper tools to build any, they were exposed to the scorching fervours of a burning sun in the day time, and to the chilling dews in the night.

During these three days the Spaniards completed a four gun battery, and intrenchments.

trenchments round the foot of fort San Lazar, which became stronger than the castle of itself: they also drew the guns of the fascine battery on the north point, and mounting them on this new battery, frequently fired from them into the camp, where sickness increased, and where the rainy seasons now began to make havock.

The operations of the army being slow, and the business urgent, the admiral sent a detachment from lord James Cavendish and colonel Bland's regiments, to reinforce them with such Americans as were fit for service, which, together with the Negroes, augmented the army to five thousand men. The fleet, by their fire, deprived the Spaniards of all communication by sea, and the Weymouth continuing posted within pistol-shot of the shore, kept scouring the country, while the mortars from the ketches play'd both on the fort and the town: however, the communication between the town and country was open, whole herds
of

of cattle were brought in, and the garrison of San Lazar was reinforced, and supplied ; about two in the morning of the eighth, twelve hundred men, commanded by brigadier Guise, advanced toward the fort, being conducted by three deserters, and a little before day began to mount the hill ; they intended an attack upon two places at once ; but the division which was to have gone up an open accessible road, that lay upon the right of the fort, was misled toward the center, where the ascent was very steep and the ground broken ; some of the most forward gained the top, and pushed on to the entrenchments, but not being immediately sustained, by reason of the great difficulty in mounting the hill, they were most of them killed or wounded : colonel Grant ascended the hill on the left, but having received a mortal wound, and the guide with several others being killed, lieutenant-colonel Hammond, the next in command, continued on the side of the hill, till ordered to

to retire: the other troops seeing the fate of the grenadiers, halted at the foot of the hill, where they continued in great disorder; instead of rushing upon the Spaniards sword in hand, a full stop was made, and the men were left exposed to the cannon, and the musketry of the enemy, which made a dreadful havock among them: between six and seven they were ordered to retreat, and to cover them, a reserve of five hundred men was directed to advance, by which means they retired unmolested, with the loss of six hundred men; among whom colonel Grant, lieutenant-colonel Thomson, three captains and four lieutenants.

The miscarriage of this attack determined the admiral to set sail on the sixth of May, for Jamaica, carrying only a shattered reserve of three thousand two hundred men, twelve hundred of whom were Americans, and unfit for service. However, before setting out, the defences of the harbour were intirely destroyed, the
cannon

cannon and mortars were spiked up, the lime-kilns were ruined, and their lime-store was shipped off for building an hospital at Port-Royal.

The town of Carthagena, though the object of the expedition, suffered but little from the most strenuous efforts : the Gallicia, which the admiral ordered to be made into a floating battery, was indeed, by help of a strong sea breeze, driven so near as to shatter some of the houses, the shells from the bomb ketches damaged some churches and houses, particularly on the thirteenth, one of the carcases falling into the great church, where was the principal magazine of powder, set fire to the timber and plank that covered it, which caused a general consternation, the alarm bell was rung, the people flocked from every quarter, and by throwing sand soon extinguished the flames.

From the time of the fleet's arrival at Jamaica, the admiral was busy in concerting measures for striking some important
blow

blow that might compensate the former disappointment: no less than the conquest of the island Cuba, by far the most extensive and most important in the West-Indies, was attempted, and perhaps the scheme had succeeded, had not a division of counsels always prevented the execution of them.

The admiral now weary with sailing backward and forward to Jamaica, without affecting the enemy, or being affected by them, notwithstanding his force was soon nearly equal to what it was when first he set sail for Carthagena; the convoy with the victuallers and storeships, which arrived from England, on the nineteenth, having supplied the place of the seven eighty gun ships, as also of the Hampton-court, Burford, Worcester, Falmouth, and five frigates, which were sent home under the care of commodore Lestock.

Posterity will scarcely believe, that an expedition, which met with no interruption, should be abandoned, when almost finished,

finished, and which was supported by a fleet of nine men of war, two of whom of eighty guns, two of seventy, three of sixty, and three of fifty, with forty-one sail of transports and fireships, having on board four thousand men.

The troops were landed on the twenty-first of July, near St. Jago, the largest town on the eastern side of the pleasant healthy island of Cuba, which is two hundred and thirty leagues long, and forty broad, and which abounds not only with the necessaries of life, but with the more delicate blessings of nature; the open meadows swarming with cattle, and the woods with hogs both tame and wild; the land produces sugar-canes, and the best of tobacco in plenty; wheat, rice, all kind of fallowing, and pulse flourish very plentifully, with all kind of Indian fruit; the woods are full of mahogany, fustre, Spanish elm, cedar, and several other kinds of timber; also cotton grows wild, besides what is planted: the island is full of fine rivers
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and harbours fit for transportation ; and the town of Covery, within three leagues of St. Jago, has in it one of the richest copper mines, on which the Spaniards work incessantly.

The troops found no mortal to oppose them ; the country was intirely deserted, only a small number of Spaniards skulked up and down without either power or inclination to fight, and the flight of the women and children to St. Jago, increased the scarcity of provisions, and added to the confusion which was already so great, that the governor and grandees, from an apprehension of an attack over land, repaired every night into the woods for security ; so that had the consternation been improved, a detachment of one thousand men, with as many Negroes, might, by carrying a week's provisions, have carried the upper batteries of Estrella and Santa Catarina, the former of which was on the town-side, mounted eighteen guns, the other a little northward, and mounted twelve ;

twelve ; both of which might have been surprised by forty men. What fatality possessed those concerned, cannot well be determined ; the land and sea officers blamed each other ; the troops were re-imbarked on the twentieth of November, without having a single shot fired at either the army or transports. The general and admiral separated on the twentieth of December, after a connection too long for themselves, and too fatal to the nation, who expended upon these expeditions three millions sterling, lost a number of lives, and what was more, lost the character of irresistible by sea. Only one Spanish man of war of twenty-four guns, and two hundred and twenty men, was taken by the Worcester ; a register ship of three hundred and fifty tons, and fifty men, laden with provisions for Carthagená, by the Defiance ; and a register ship, with seventy-four thousand pieces of eight, by the Shoreham man of war.

General Wentworth returned to Portsmouth, and the admiral proceeded to cruize.

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off Hispaniola, in expectation of meeting a considerable reinforcement, while the Spaniards exulted in their own deliverance, and made rejoicings in their vast dominions, little short of those practised in the Roman triumphs ; there were rejoicings for three days and three nights successively at Madrid.

From this time the admiral pressed for leave to return home, in order to be free from any future discouragements, and to have his conduct inquired into : his request was complied with, and on the twenty-third of September, 1742, he received letters of revocation, on which he set sail for England, arrived at Bristol on the sixth of January, 1743, amidst the loudest acclamations ; on the thirteenth he waited on his majesty at St. James's, from whom he met with a very gracious reception, on the nineteenth he himself was waited on by several aldermen of the city of London, and on the twenty-fourth took up his freedom at Guildhall, when he left one hundred guineas for the poor.

From this time he was consulted almost in every thing, and his advice was the more necessary, as the French had declared war in March, 1744.

The British nation would have been capable of dealing with the united naval force of the house of Bourbon, had not the latter, by marching forces into Germany, under pretence of being guarantee of the treaty of Westphalia, involved the people of England in a war upon the continent; where a single troop of horse, upon the British establishment, is more chargeable than a whole regiment of dragoons in the pay of France, whose armies traversed the empire, while a secret expedition, in favour of p— Edward, son of the pretender, flattered the court of Versailles with the prospect of changing the face of affairs throughout Europe.

Sir John Norris being in the Downs with a formidable squadron, in the summer, 1744, hovered upon the coast of Kent, the English militia were armed,

and so the scheme of the young P—r came to nothing for that year. However, he himself tried his own fortune the next ; for landing in Scotland upon the twenty-fourth of July, 1745, he was soon joined by a number of Highlanders, sufficient to defeat the few regular forces then in the kingdom ; Cope was routed at Prestonpans on the twenty-first of September, and numbers resorted to the standard of the conqueror, who, on the eighth of November, with eight thousand men, entered England, where every thing was in confusion, and where the people, upon the coasts of Kent and Sussex were under perpetual alarms from the vast preparations at Dunkirk, Boulogne, and other Ports of France.

To watch the motions of the enemy's fleet, admiral Vernon was sent out with a large squadron of men of war; which he disposed so well, as effectually to block up the French harbours ; by a seasonable correspondence, he greatly animated

mated the country people, who were, by their confidence in his abilities, rid of the gloomy apprehensions of an invasion with which they had hitherto been seized ; in this service he was taken up till the Rebellion had breathed its last, by the total defeat of the chevalier's army, on the sixteenth of April, 1746. But not long after his return, complaints were made of him to the lords of the admiralty, that he had superseded their orders, by appointing a gunner in opposition to one recommended by themselves, and for exacting too severe duty from the hands of the private men ; the complaints were laid before the king, and Mr. Vernon was struck off the list of admirals, an event which he bore with great resignation.

From this time he lived wholly retired, no way concerned in any publick business, further than by having a seat in the house of commons, as member for Ipswich in Suffolk, which he still had the interest to retain. In every debate relative to the

sea-service, he spoke his mind with a freedom of speech, which though it discovered the candour and integrity of the man, yet it procured him the enmity of the ministry, and hindered his being employed : but toward the latter end of his days, things began to wear a new face in England, and the state to be governed by other maxims than hitherto it had been.

The house of commons, after the death of Mr. Pelham, was divided into two parties, that of Mr. F—, and Mr. P—, both men of ability and temper, but of opposite principles and opposite sides of the question ; the former, was for retaining the ancient system of having connection with the powers upon the Continent, the latter utterly against it, as detrimental to the interest of the British nation. The memorable winter of 1754 will never be forgotten, when Mr. P—, by the superior force of his arguments expressed in the most free and elegant terms, levelled all the fences of corruption, and convinced the most obstinate of the folly of taking

taking foreigners into pay, and maintaining a land war.

The efforts of Mr. P—, for changing the system in England were forwarded by our losses in America, and an expedition into the Mediterranean, with ten ships only for relieving Minorca, then besieged by marshal Richlieu, and an army of twenty thousand men! that sparkling gem of the British crown fell into the hands of the enemy before any breach was made either in the counterescarp or body of the place, nay before the covered way itself was assaulted! Towards the latter end of the year 1756, a revolution happened in the British ministry; the lord chancellor Y—, now earl of H——, resigned his employments, in order to reap the quiet possession of an immensity of riches, which by his abilities he had accumulated, and by which he settled his family in such a manner, that their income was equal to that of some crowned heads; lord A—, and the other commissioners of the admiralty

admiralty were removed ; Mr. F— resigned his places, and the old duke of N——, who had generously expended a paternal estate among mobs in his younger years, was removed from his employments. Short-lived however, was Mr. P—'s administration, for in four months he resigned, by his majesty's command ; and it is doubtful whether he would have been received into favour, had not the city of London testified her approbation of his conduct, by presenting him with the freedom of the city in a gold box ; the other cities followed the example of the metropolis, and Mr. P— and his party came in ; as Mr. Vernon perhaps would have done, if death had not prevented.

He enjoyed a very good state of health both in London, and at his country seat of Naſton ; he was indeed very lame, and drooping, but his constitution otherways was but little impaired ; the sickness which carried him off, was sudden and unexpected ; he was perfectly well
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on friday the twenty-eighth of October, 1757; and wrote a familiar letter to a friend in the Broad-way, Westminster, on the twenty-ninth; about two in the morning of the thirtieth, he awaked out of his first sleep, and complained of an heaviness at heart; a physician was sent for, but his pain increased so violently, that he expired in the arms of a servant, about three minutes before any assistance could be brought him.

Mr. Vernon was of a stature below a medium, of a brown complexion, had a piercing eye, a searching look, and something awful in his gesture; he insisted upon the officers doing their duty, with a preciseness that raised differences between them and the private men; he was assiduous in visiting the hospitals, inspecting into the provisions and cloaths; and never was known to tarry all night ashore, while in a harbour.

This conduct was the cause of his disappointments, and at last removed him
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from his place : his temper was abundantly cool ; tho' a warm anxiety raised in his breast a jealousy of those who were joined with him in command ; he had the best opportunities to learn the business of a seaman, the several parts of which he understood perfectly well ; and thro' the whole of his life, he acted very liberally toward the poor ; so that his death was much lamented in the place where he lived, and a real loss to the nation, when engaged in a war with France, for by perusing the histories of times past, and a strict review of his own, he saw thoroughly into the cause of his disappointments, and became one of the most accomplished sea-officers that ever bore command.

F I N I S.





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